

APMG EVALUATION SERVICE FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

BRONZE REPORT

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Product:

Hydra version 5.2

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of Hydra version 5.2, an application suite from Program Management Group plc., that I conducted on Friday, 3 March 2006.

Hydra is a modular programme and project management system designed to be used by every individual in an organisation who has any connection with its portfolio of projects, each of who has their own Hydra 'plan'.

When in operation, a senior manager - probably a programme manager - would use the Hydra 'Manager' module to initiate a project and then delegate its management to the project manager. The project manager would break the plan down into work packages, assigning the skills required and the costs involved and delegate the packages to functional team leaders. More detail would be added to the plan at that level and assignments would be delegated to individuals. There is no theoretical limit to the number of levels of delegation that are possible.

As work is delegated down the hierarchy, it appears on each individual's plan and, subject to the security settings employed by the organisation, everyone has access to all of the information that is required for them to know what is expected of them, make their contribution to the plan and liaise with their colleagues, managers and staff.

As work is assigned to them, team members, who would use the Hydra 'Personal' module, receive notification of its arrival and are able to see it, both on a Gantt chart and in a 'Diary' view. They can enter details of the work that they do into this diary and, from there, it's posted to a timesheet. After completing an approval process, the timesheet information is distributed to the plans of everyone else connected with that project.

The main function of the 'Collaborator' module is document management, but it also includes a contact book, an area in which project managers can create 'project workspaces' and the functionality to enable threaded discussions to take place.

The 'Executive' module is essentially a real-time reporting tool that provides senior executives with an overview of the business and its performance in achieving its strategic goals and benefits.

A library of screen, HTML and XML reports is available via the 'Reporter' module and an optional 'Alerts' module can be configured to send messages to named individuals on the occurrence (or non-occurrence) of specific events.

Program Management Group has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of this product falls within the field of guidance offered by the OGC Business Change Guidance documents covering Benefits Management, Portfolio Management, Risk Management, Project Management, Programme Management and Strategic Management. I agree with this opinion. Program Management Group also states that Hydra, which incorporates a full set of PRINCE2 document templates, a PRINCE2 project template and PRINCE2 help, can be used in a way that is fully compliant with the PRINCE2 methodology. I can see no reason to question the veracity of this statement.

In my opinion, this assessment should now proceed to the Silver Stage and I have accordingly agreed a Silver Stage assessment plan with Program Management Group, which is attached to this report.

S. Cotterell

6 March 2006