

APMG EVALUATION SERVICE FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

BRONZE REPORT

Number 14

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Program Planning Professionals Ltd. trading as Pcubed

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Product:

Pcubed Delivery Hub

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of the Pcubed Delivery Hub, an application from Program Planning Professionals Ltd. that I conducted on Friday, 31 October 2008

The Pcubed Delivery Hub is a framework built within a configuration of Microsoft Project Server and SharePoint into which templates can be embedded.

Into this structure Pcubed, which is an organisation of PPM consultants that advise on project and programme management matters, has placed PRINCE2®, OGC Best Practice and Managing Successful Programmes (MSP™) documents and templates. These can, however, be replaced by any set of templates that their client requires. Also provided is a set of tailored reports aimed at the needs of individuals performing various roles within an organisation. This assessment has been conducted upon the product configured with the templates and reports provided by Pcubed.

The tool is provided as part of a package of services and is part of an overall solution. It is not supplied as an out-of-the-box product because it needs configuration services to be supplied at the point of installation. It can be supplied either as an addition to an existing Microsoft Project system or as an entirely new system.

A look and feel programme Home Page has been created, which prompts for the initial programme creation process. It is based on MSP and is configurable. Clicking on one of the process buttons on that page leads to another screen which explains that part of the process and provides the templates used at that stage. Within the programme system, there are 256 templates available. Pcubed doesn't expect a client to use them all, but to use a selection augmented by some of their own templates that can also be embedded in the system.

A similar structure is used for project creation and this applies the PRINCE2 methodology, again tailor-able to the client's requirements. The choice of alternative lifecycles for different types of programme and project can be accommodated.

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Pcubed have created a new database solution that is able to accept data from almost any data source. This is configured to hold a series of data 'snapshots' which can be used to provide historical and trend information. The security structure of the database can be taken from any of the data sources, ensuring that the information it contains remains secure. This database can be accessed by any open reporting tool such as Crystal Reports and the tool to be used is the client's choice.

Pcubed are creating a set of Best Practice reports and at present there are five of these supplied as standard but it is anticipated that more will follow, including MSP and PRINCE2 reports. These can be edited and new reports can be added at the request of clients. Staff from client organisations can be trained to construct their own reports.

Program Planning Professionals Ltd. has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of this product falls within the field of guidance offered by the OGC's MSP and Best Practice documentation covering both programme and project management and that their product complies with this guidance in all respects. I concur with their opinion.

They also state that their tool is fully PRINCE2 compliant and I agree that this appears to be the case.

I consider that this assessment should now proceed to the Silver Stage and I have accordingly agreed a Silver Stage assessment plan with Program Planning Professionals Ltd., which is attached to this report.

S. Cotterell

3 November 2008