

## **Investment Analyser and Portfolio Analyser**

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of Investment Analyser and Portfolio Analyser, complementary applications from Proving Services Ltd., that I conducted on Tuesday, 21 September 2004.

Investment Analyser has been designed to evaluate the viability of investing in individual projects. Initially it requires users to input some detailed information about the business strategy and objectives of their organisation and the benefits anticipated from a particular project. As a preliminary, the anticipated benefits are aligned with the overall strategy and objectives and their relevance to these is measured.

The next step involves answering a series of questions drawn from a library of 1750 questions that can be delivered in more than 26,000 combinations. The answer given to each question determines which subsequent questions are asked. This questioning can be rigorous and answers often require supporting evidence to be given. On average about 320 questions are asked during a full Business Case review - dependant on the number of benefits, objectives and strategic drivers in the project.

Following analysis the program delivers a verdict on the achievability of the project and its attractiveness when measured against the organisation's strategy, objectives and benefits required.

Portfolio Analyser takes the Investment Analyser results of the various projects in the organisation's portfolio and compares them one against the other. It delivers a series of reports that detail the comparative benefits anticipated from each project and highlights the most and least achievable and attractive projects in the portfolio.

My initial impression of these two applications is that, to someone who has received the appropriate training, they would be straightforward to use and that they both deliver on-screen and printed reports that are attractive and easy to understand.

Proving Services has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of these products fall within the field of guidance offered by the OGC Business Change Guidance documents covering Business Case Development, Benefits Management, Portfolio Management and Risk Management. I concur with their opinion. During my assessment, Proving Services produced documentary evidence of their efforts to comply with the relevant OGC guidance and my initial impression was that a high level of compliance had been achieved.

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

S. Cotterell

27 September 2004