



Farnborough Projects Limited

Farnborough Projects Limited

Project Management, Training and IT Contracting
243, Tubbenden Lane South
Farnborough
Orpington
Kent
BR6 7DW

TEL: +44 (0) 1689 609 574

FAX: +44 (0) 1689 609 573

E-mail: sales@farnborough-projects.com

Web: www.farnborough-projects.com

Hydra – the ‘value proposition’

Introduction

In any project oriented organisation, it is not so much the critical path that defines when work can be done, but the availability of the right resources with the right skills to complete the tasks that governs when the work gets done. Hydra is a resource centric application.

The organisations that have made best use of Hydra are those that have multiple projects running simultaneously, with resources, whether ‘in-house’ or sub-contracted, working on a number of projects at the same time. It is making the most effective use of those resources, with minimal administration and ‘housekeeping’ that is important. Hydra customers say that their productivity has risen by 20% or better using Hydra, and the administration effort has dropped by as much as 90%. Hydra customers also say that because they have far better project visibility, fewer projects are badly delayed or over budget, because management are able to recognise and manage the issues earlier.

Resource centric scenario planning

Hydra is a resource centric application. This means that when a new project is planned, Hydra provides a view of the forecast delivery date, based on the skills required and earliest availability of those skills, whether internal or external, and the relative priority of the project to other WIP. In order to hit a critical deadline for a critical project, relative priorities will be changed across a portfolio of projects. Hydra will re-schedule work to be done across all projects in the portfolio, based on the skills, priorities, and availability. Hydra will store any number of scenarios in order that the business can discuss with the project management teams and contractors, the relative priorities and understand the knock-on effect to the workload.

Hydra – no need for resource levelling

Hydra will only allow a resource to be booked to its capacity. That may include evenings and weekends, but the capacity is finite. This means that if a resource is loaned to a project team for 25% of their time, their availability is based on 75% of their time that remains free to do other work. This means that when we take on a new piece of work and assess the timescales for delivery based on skills and availability, Hydra will provide an accurate forecast of delivery, because the current resource commitments are realistic.

Re-estimation of Effort

It is not until a task that is to follow a new specification has actually been started and work has been undertaken, that it becomes clear whether an estimate of the effort required is realistic or unrealistic. Hydra prompts the user to re-evaluate the amount of effort remaining to finish a task. If there is a variance, which is agreed by the project manager, forecasts are updated and other affected members of the team are informed of the new schedule. Hydra also reflects that the dependent party now has availability, which can be utilised on other work. Hydra stores the amount of time actually expended on the task in order that the next time the task is undertaken, the estimator can refer to previous experience and estimate appropriately, which reduces operational risk.

Registered in England & Wales No.3469437

Registered Office: Equitable House, 1, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5BJ

Project Collaboration

Hydra provides a knowledge management and document management wrapper to support all staff working on a project. At the highest level, Hydra will provide the framework to support a project team, ensuring that the team embarks on a project with the approach, the justification, and the structure of the team, properly founded.

Hydra also provides support to the individual by providing them with on line access to 'how to guides', supporting documentation to the project itself, access to those who have done similar tasks before, discussion groups for shared learning, external documentation, client details and so on.

Hydra also stores drawings, specifications, lessons learned, project e-mail traffic, to harness the knowledge within an organisation, make it accessible and useful to all parties.

Changing priorities

Hydra is resource centric not task centric. This means that when priorities change due for example, a particular project running into difficulties, the requirement for corrective action is expressed in detailed terms of the skills and trades required to deliver a piece of work, rather than simply man days. The Project Manager is able to model the projects and the relative priorities, and understand the inter-dependency of resources and skills across the project portfolio. Hydra enables the reduction of risk of projects failing or inappropriate priorities being set, because the detail is visible, and the impact of change is readily assessed.

Documentation & Knowledge

All documentation relevant to a project is held on-line for that project team members to access. This might be plans, drawings, specifications or subject discussions. After the project is closed the documentation and the knowledge learned will be stored for future use and access by other project members. A user can use the Knowledge base to investigate what the expertise is within the organisation on a particular subject, and identify who in the organisation has that skill. The access to knowledge enables Hydra to reduce risk.

Risk

Hydra is designed to constantly prompt the user to recognise issues and refer them upwards, whether it be an over run, a mistake in the estimate, or specification, in order that the business has the opportunity to manage the problem as soon as possible, and create contingency plans to manage the situations that arise. Hydra supports the possibility to categorise risk and weight it in terms of probability, category and severity.

Visibility

Hydra provides access to the detail. This means that those at the top of an organisation can click down through the detail to understand where an issue has arisen, and at the same time assess whether the action being taken is appropriate and effective. Hydra provides the tools for managers to ensure that they are fully informed as possible on progress, and any actions that need to be taken, by themselves and those on whom they are dependent, are being completed when they should be.

Forecasting

Because Hydra captures time expended at the lowest level, and does so in manner that makes it easy for the manager and the user to keep on top of the time entry task, the quality and timeliness of the forecast (if this process is properly policed and managed) is very good. This means that bad news becomes evident early, and management has the maximum time to do something about it. This in turn reduces risk.

Project Framework

Hydra has an additional component, the Hydra Framework allowing customers to follow a structured methodology for Portfolio planning and analysis through the whole Programme and project life cycle. The Framework contains the methodology, full explanation of the steps required (and why these are required), the team membership, accountabilities, roles, templates etc all of which can be hyperlinked into the plans developed in Hydra. With the Hydra Framework, Hydra Collaborator and its ability to provide quick links to knowledge, Hydra Framework compliments the use of Hydra Manager.

Should the customer already have a framework in place, Hydra can easily link to this.

About Farnborough Projects Limited

Farnborough Projects Limited is a privately owned Project and Programme Management company specialising in Project and Programme Management in the Finance (Retail and Investment), Telco, Logistics and Insurance markets. With in excess of 25 years experience in managing projects, using project tools and project and programme recovery, Farnborough Projects Limited experience is helping project teams and customers improve the way they deliver, track and plan business change.

Contacts

Marketing Office
Farnborough Projects Limited
243, Tubbenden Lane South
Farnborough
Orpington
Kent
United Kingdom
BR6 7DW

+44 (0) 1689 609 574
sales@farnborough-projects.com
www.farnborough-projects.com