



Title: Aspect3 Hard Dollar Implementation

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Summary:

This presentation describes the implementation of the Hard Dollar Estimating package for the Aspect3 Alliance, a railway signalling alliance between Aurizon and Invensys Rail (now Siemens).

Hard Dollar is an estimating package which has the capability to integrate with Primavera P6, enabling the transfer of information between the estimate and the schedule, to produce:

- Resource and Cost Loaded Programs
- Estimates with time phased activities.

The existing Alliance systems consisted of:

- Estimates in standalone excel spreadsheet with one page summary sheets.
- Planning in P6 Primavera, and
- Finance in an ERP system.

The implementation was an iterative process, to achieve reporting alignment between the estimates, schedule and financial package was difficult with issues including:

- The Cost Breakdown Structure was too detailed and made completion of the timesheets impossible.
- The Cost Breakdown Structure was ambiguous and did not clearly define a scope of works.
- The Cost Breakdown Structure and Work Breakdown Structure could not be directly mapped resulting in mismatched information between the schedule and estimate (budget).
- Clearly defining activity completion criteria.
- Estimate structure required more detail to support the schedule and vice versa.
- Additional activities required in the schedule to handle payment timing such a material lead times.



The Hard Dollar implementation provided a whole of project life schedule and cost control system, using Primavera P6 as the platform. The benefits of the system included:

- Integrated schedule and estimate.
- Structured and auditable estimates.
- Schedule and estimate durations aligned.
- Program and Project resource levelling.
- Repeatable estimating and scheduling with the development of templates.
- The development of clearly defined benchmarking data and unit rates.
- Development of estimated benchmark data and unit rates.

Keywords: technology, integration, systems.