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The Navigator for Enterprise Solutions

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIAL

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20 Most Promising Project Management Solution Providers 2015

Project management as a software solution has established itself as an ‘enabler’ in multiple industries than before. Successful project management is characterized by the ongoing development and refinement of methods and practices, and ensuring that the software tools deployed meet the organizational needs without becoming a burden. According to Gartner, in today’s enterprise project management, tool proliferation is becoming more and more evident as companies strive to become digital businesses and embrace the required change.

The project management solutions are expected to support this transformation with the leadership—both on-site and back in the offices. The solutions are anticipated to report progress on projects by sector management, maintain and update project reporting, checkpoints and financial reporting to a high standard with security. To fulfill these requirements, today’s project management solutions offer a wide array of tools—ranging from

project management software to project accounting and estimating, project scheduling, defect tracking, resource planning and scheduling software. While there are thousands of project management solutions in the market, the variety in solutions and their use cases have made choosing the right solution, a difficult task to accomplish.

In order to simplify and assist CIOs identify the right project management solutions, CIOReview presents “20 Most Promising Project Management Solution Providers 2015.”

A distinguished panel comprising of CEOs, CIOs, VCs, analysts, and CIOReview editorial board have selected the top project management solutions. In our selection process, we looked at the vendor’s capability to fulfill the need for cost-effective and flexible solutions that add value to the project management landscape. We present you 20 Most Promising Project Management Solution Providers 2015.



Company:

Integrated Project Management Company, Inc.

Description:

Integrated Project Management Company, Inc. (IPM) is a business consulting company specializing in professional project management within the Life Sciences, Consumer Products, Industrial Products, and Healthcare industries

Key Person:

Michael R. McLeod,
COO

Website:

www.ipmcinc.com

Integrated Project Management Company, Inc. (IPM) Consultant-Powered Project Management

A project management solution isn't always software. Integrated Project Management Company, Inc. (IPM) provides a human solution – project management consultants. IPM's project managers can offer consultative support to IT program management offices, prioritization of the IT department's portfolio of projects, and end-to-end system selection and implementation of software solutions within IT and other business functions. IPM helps its clients efficiently realize a well-planned strategy because an endless loop of execution doesn't improve ROI. With IPM there is a finite endpoint to every project.

For cross-functional projects, IPM manages stakeholders from each department to ensure the requirements are agreed upon by all involved. Interdependency management goes beyond the stakeholders to the actual

end users, as the end users must embrace these changes for the implementation to be a true success.

The project management landscape has come a long way in the last decade. A recent Gartner report acknowledged clients are focused on increasing collaboration, communication, and project portfolio-level insight to gain more visibility into project demand, project status, resource capacity and utilization, and actual cost.

"We not only bring project management best practices, but strong leadership to inspire and motivate the project team to execute complex initiatives," says Michael McLeod, COO of IPM, headquartered in Burr Ridge, IL. IPM applies professional project management methodologies to break down functional silos, engage stakeholders, and ensure the client's initiatives are completed within budget, scope, and schedule.

Currently, IPM is bringing leadership and project management best practices to a mid-sized, global electronics manufacturer. What began as a six-month system selection engagement evolved into an 18-month extension for IPM because of their integrated approach to Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system implementation.

IPM is focusing not only on implementing the system but also on the end users and processes affected by the new system. The ERP system will affect over 13 departments and 75 percent of the company's employees throughout the new product development, quote-to-cash, and service processes. And yet, forecasts indicate the system will launch on-time and 10 percent under budget.

Most software solution providers will offer project management resources or tools, but their scope of concerns typically focuses on the specific tasks related to launching their software solution, rather than the system's impact on the affected departments within the client's organization.

A system implementation requires a different kind of project manager – an integrated consultant who does

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more than manage the task list but understands the impact of the system on the end users. This approach enhances the team's ability to identify where the software solution could create major operational changes.

"One huge trend in the IT field is the blend of change management and project management. Technology is useless unless end users seamlessly adopt it," says McLeod. The end of a project signifies the beginning of the value stream. For the best ROI, a client needs a partner who can also lead an organization to accept, adopt, and appreciate the change of systems and processes to create a sustainable solution long after the project management consultants' departure. CR



Michael R. McLeod