

## REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY



## How is Project Management Life in Germany?

*By: Manfred Rieck*

The year has started in Germany with some VAT increase of 3% towards 19%, which was expected as a brake for the economy – but industry is optimistic. After a short hole at end of January the growth engine moves on. Here are some details.

## Project Updates and News

The German army signed end of December a 7.1 Billion Euro contract with IBM and Siemens to renew their communication infrastructure. With this “**Herkules**” titled project the German army updates their IT. This public private partnership is the largest in Europe today. Siemens is responsible for the maintenance and renewal of the systems at more than 1.500 locations in Germany with 140.000 computer systems, 7.000 servers, 300.000 phones and 150.000 mobile phones whereas IBM is responsible for the data center and application update.

An update on the **Electronic Health Card** I reported already in January. The project goes further with a next pilot of 10.000 patients in Sachsen to be used in 25 medical practices. The first pilot was January in Schleswig-Holstein. This is a further milestone prior to the roll-out in 2008. It is expected to save 500 Mio Euro per year due to the card. Industry invested already 170 Mio Euro into the project.



The European research project **Adaptive Services Grid** (ASG) developed a prototype to connect Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) with Semantic Web. This allows it service components to orchestrate services processes based on semantic descriptions. They developed a reference-architecture for semantic service platforms which are able to find, bind, and request service components. This dynamic composition is a strong advantage compared to conventional service platforms. Details on the project can be found under <http://asg-platform.org>.

Adaptive Services Grid  
Integrated Project supported by the European Commission

An interesting project for **Biometric Pattern Recognition** started in Mainz near to Frankfurt. Here the Federal Criminal Police Office implemented a newly video control at the main station to identify people within large groups. Till end of January three video control systems are tested to identify faces in real time and compare them in real time with a database. For the test 200 volunteers are invited to be scanned on an escalator so the system has 20 seconds to identify the person. The candidates are equipped with RID-tags to identify whether the results are correct. An area-wide usage of the system

is not planned due to technical problems and the high personal effort, but a combination of video and biometry seems to be appropriate.

## GPM

The GPM (German Project Management Association) invites for a conference for active volunteering members to get together February 23/24 in Frankfurt at Intercity Hotel Frankfurt Airport. This meeting responds to the request of several volunteers to exchange knowledge and improve networking. The first day is used to identify and discuss GPM related topics and the second day is used to get deeper discussions on these topics. You get further information with <http://www.gpm-ipma.de>



## PMI Berlin/Brandenburg Chapter

The PMI Chapter Berlin celebrates the first chapter meeting at February 15<sup>th</sup> at Mobile.de/Ebay. This is an opportunity for networking and knowledge exchange, I wish the colleagues a successful meeting.

## PMI Munich Chapter

The PMI Munich Chapter had their yearly general meeting already in January and learned about the project management tool Projectplace in an interesting speech covering theory and praxis.

## PMI Frankfurt Chapter

The PMI Frankfurt Chapter had their first chapter meeting end of January and started with a great success. There were more than 100 participants at that meeting interested in the topics Program and Portfolio Management and International projects. We had to order additional chairs due to this resonance but it was a wonderful start. The guests had many opportunities to share their experience and grow their network with visitors from many industries and countries – the largest distance was a colleague from Pakistan Chapter.



The next 'cracker barrel' is planned February 9th. The cracker barrel offers the possibility to discuss all topics of project management in the convenient atmosphere of a restaurant in downtown Frankfurt. For details have a look at the PMI Frankfurt Chapter website [www.PMIFC.de](http://www.PMIFC.de).

These interesting and challenging projects represent the variety of topics we as project managers can work with. I got the feedback that more and more projects are driven according the various methodologies (e.g. PMBOK, V-Model) and are successful now but there is a lot of work to do to convince more organizations how to drive projects better. The pretty high resonance for the chapter meetings demonstrate the growing interest in project management related topics and our success to make it happen.



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