

**REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY – JULY 2008****Project Management News from Germany**  
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**Introduction**

It is midyear 2008, we are celebrating the European Soccer Championship and some areas in Germany are starting already their vacation, which is nice for them and nice for the one's left home because the autobahn is not blocked. This scenario could become normal when the oil price grows as promised. Aren't we anymore able to travel re the high costs?

The word 'virtual collaboration' is reaching a new dimension. Virtual teams distributed over continents are already usual because skills are not always located where they are needed. Cost efficiency has become one of the strongest business drivers and high skills at lower costs are not usually located in the industrial countries.

Two completely different stories with one person concerned – the project manager. His role as **Swiss Army Knife** gets additional dimensions as he needs to act international, multi-cultural and virtual with distributed teams. There are several collaboration tools in place to work within this environment but tools won't substitute the personally interaction in project teams. The project manager needs to establish his leadership role without immediate contact to his team – in addition to his lack of authorization in matrix organizations a further challenge he is faced with. Exchange of experiences on this is offered in several project management events across Germany.

**News from PM Professional Organizations****PMI Chapter News**

The **PMI Frankfurt Chapter** (PMIFC) had its regular chapter meeting in May 25<sup>th</sup> in Frankfurt presenting a speech on portfolio management in the banking environment where it became obvious that an underlying method for portfolio management is helpful but sanity and reason are important, too. In a second speech the German Central Bank introduced its project management organization and the detailed discussion made the interest of the audience in the governmental world of project

management visible. The next chapter meeting is planned July 28<sup>th</sup> in the Rhein-Main area, the program is in preparation.

The **PMIFC Local Group Hamburg** had a meeting June 13<sup>th</sup> in Hamburg presenting the project type “Mergers and Acquisitions” from Dr. Thomas Ludwig from Logica corporation. The next meeting is planned in September investigating the implementation of a PMO.

The **PMIFC Cracker Barrel** had a meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Frankfurt investigating the topic:

*Coaching as a panacea? Which problems could coaching solve and when does it make sense to use it in the area of PM?*

The next Cracker Barrel is planned August 8<sup>th</sup>. For further information on the PMIFC events visit [www.PMIFC.de](http://www.PMIFC.de)

The **PMI Munich Chapter** had its regular chapter meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Munich presenting the contract form EVB-IT used in German governmental environment. In a second speech the service level agreements for contracts were discussed and in a third presentation open source software and its legal usage in projects was discussed. The meeting presented well chosen, highly important and interesting topics for the audience with fantastic speakers from the industry.

The **PMI Munich “Stammtisch”** is planned July 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit [www.PMI-muc.de](http://www.PMI-muc.de)

The **PMI Berlin Chapter** had its Profession Circle June 19<sup>th</sup> at Sun Microsystems in Berlin discussing IT projects and legal questions. It was an information event on the role of the project manager as the interface between project and contract. The next meeting is planned September 4<sup>th</sup> investigating the topic Shared Services in cooperation with itSMF. For more information please visit [www.PMI-berlin.org](http://www.PMI-berlin.org)

The **PMI Cologne Chapter** had a workshop June 30<sup>th</sup> investigating the theory of creative problem solving in projects. They get insights into the TRIZ theory (Teoriya Resheniya Izobretatelskikh Zadatch), a theory developed in former Soviet Union to find common concepts in patents. This theory was applied to the project landscape from a team of Technical College Dortmund resulting in interesting outcomes. For more information please visit [www.PMICC.de](http://www.PMICC.de)

## **GPM News**

The GPM honored the excellent project management for the restoration of the Dresdner Frauenkirche with the **Roland Gutsch Project Management Award 2008** for Ulrich R. Schönfeld and Dr.-Ing. Karl-Heinz Schützhold. The ceremony was celebrated with 150 guests in Berlin.

## Project Updates – News from the German (and other European Country's) Project Landscape

The IT provider **TUI InfoTec** acquired Artemis International Germany April 1<sup>st</sup>. With this TUI InfoTec is provider for Artemis software Artemis Toolset 9000 (Mainframe), Artemis Views (Client/Server), web-based Artemis 7 as well as new products like Investment Planning and Control, New Product Development, IT Management and Governance, and Program Management in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. TUI InfoTec offers Hosting of Artemis applications, too.

The project 'Amarta' from insurance company **Swiss Life** has stopped. The multi million Francs project was started in 2000 to establish a common IT platform for the organization and planned to be finished in 2009. The tenor is that the market requirements were changing over the years and the change of the board of directors in 2002/2003 has led to delays of several years. Translating this into project management language means that the lack of a baseline and/or change management process in combination with the loss of the power sponsor has led to the stop of the project. The estimation of the loss varies between 60 – 800 Million Francs.

**TechConsult** did a study on the projects the small and medium business in Germany is planning for the next two years. The study is mandated from IBM, Microsoft, T-Systems, and SAP. The kind of project depends on the industry and the size of the enterprise. Companies with 20 to 49 employees are planning ERP projects, companies with 50 to 99 employees are planning ECM and BI projects. Companies of 100 to 499 employees are planning projects to improve their controlling, CRM, and quality management. For the study decision takers from 200 companies were interviewed. The study can be purchased from TechConsult, costs 990,- EURO plus tax (<http://www.techconsult.de>).

I hope this update on the German/European project management finds your pleasure. If you would like to share your experience with the readers of **PMForum** or if you have some important news on the project management landscape or if you have comments and thoughts on my cogitations **please drop me an e-mail at [Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com](mailto:Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com)**

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