

## REGIONAL REPORT – AUSTRALIA – MAY 2009



### Project Management Update from Sydney

**By Jürgen Oschadleus**

*International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today*

*Sydney, Australia*

### **PM Education News**

PMI's Sydney Chapter is launching a number of new educational programs for its members in 2009. The first of these, "Enhancing your Project Management Leadership through Emotional Intelligence", is presented by Silvia de Ridder, a Qualified Executive Coach and Project Management Specialist. Silvia has an extensive background in corporate environments developing and leading cross functional teams on a broad range of business change management programs within the Telecommunications, Airline and Construction industries for over 10 years. She is also an accredited consultant in Emotional Intelligence.

The intensive one-day program on Saturday, 9 May, aims to have participants reflect and understand the key factors of emotional intelligence which impact on their role as project managers. More information on this event, and other Chapter educational activities can be obtained from the Education/Short Courses link on the Chapter website (<http://sydney.pmichapters-australia.org.au>).

### **PM Events**

#### **PMI Sydney Chapter Meeting**

Organisations are responding to the current Global Financial Crisis in different ways; some are cutting staff, others are reducing their capital works, while some organisations are searching for new target acquisitions. What is the right response and what are the right priorities during these challenging times? How can we as

portfolio managers assist our organisations to respond appropriately? These are some of the questions to be addressed by Ajay Rawal and Mike Salah of PricewaterhouseCoopers at the next PMI Sydney chapter meeting, on 14 May. Their presentation, “**Challenging Times Call For Questions That Challenge**”, will focus on how portfolio managers can work with an organisation to respond to the new economic environment. They will present recent PwC research on the 10 Fundamental Priorities an organisation should consider in challenging times, and will address how portfolio managers can lead a Business Revitalisation Program that helps an organisation to realise its new strategy.

The event is free to registered Chapter members, and \$25 for non-members. More information is available on the Events Calendar link at <http://sydney.pmichapters-australia.org.au>.

### **AIPM NSW Chapter Meeting**

“Riding The Tiger: Driving a Project Impacting One Million Staff”, 20 May 2009.

Terri Clementson, Planpower's Director for Education Services and leader of the Australian College of Project Management, will talk about the 'pathology' of working in high profile projects off-shore and cross-culturally ~ projects that can fundamentally change the culture of entire firms and even sectors in some countries. Further information is available from the Australian Institute of Project Management (AIPM) – see <http://www.aipm.com.au/html/090520-nsw-wipm-event.cfm>.



### **Project Updates – News from some Important local Projects**

#### **Sydney Water move to Parramatta**

Sydney Water's 100 year presence in the central business district ends on 4 May, when the corporation's head office moves to Parramatta. The move brings to a close a 3 year relocation project involving the sale of the existing premises and the design and construction of one of Australia's leading examples of sustainable design.

The One Smith Street building was designed and built by Brookfield Multiplex to achieve a five-star Australian Building Greenhouse Rating and Green Building Council of Australia Green Star Scheme. The building incorporates a range of innovative features, and includes an on-site water recycling plant, rainwater harvesting, solar heating panels to supplement hot water requirements, high performance glass façade with shading that can control heat entering the building without limiting natural light, chilled beam cooling, and optimal floor plate sizes of 1,600 sqm. It is designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent and reduce drinking water use by 75 per cent when compared to a typical office building. The reduction in water used at the site also reduces the flow of wastewater to the sewerage system by 90 per cent. These features, embracing both functional and sustainable design solutions, while providing value for money and improving workplace efficiency, make the new Sydney Water one of the most modern, eco-friendly buildings in the country.

The building will accommodate about 1400 staff from the current head office and various subsidiary offices. It comprises 23,000 sqm of 'A' Grade office accommodation across 15 storeys, and includes 340 sqm of retail space, along with 254 on-site car parking spaces and a further 100 off-site spaces. The building was completed at an estimated cost of \$176 million, with construction lasting from May 2007 to November 2008.

Sydney Water was established as the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage in 1888. It moved into its Pitt Street office in 1940, and added the Bathurst section of the building in 1960. Both sites were acquired by Brookfield Multiplex in 2007 as part of the relocation project. Final plans for the redevelopment of the Pitt/Bathurst Street have yet to be announced, but will need to take into account a number of heritage items in the original Sydney Water building.

## **Other News Affecting Projects & PM in New South Wales**

### **Sydney Airport Defers Expansion Projects**

Sydney Airport is planning to delay expansion projects worth A\$90 million by up to 18 months in an attempt to curb spending during the downturn. Some of the projects include the baggage handling system and the construction of several additional aircraft parking spaces. Airport officials are acting in response to the global financial downturn and a 5% decline in passenger numbers passing through the airport. Only two months ago Macquarie Airports announced it would invest up to A\$780 million into the airport from what it termed "surplus" cash on its balance sheet. Other Australian airports, including Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, are also reconsidering projects

## **Record Housing Tender**

The Department of Commerce announced its largest ever tender exercise, conducted on behalf of Housing NSW. A total of 1,340 uploads were recorded in the four week expression of interest (EOI) period for the NSW Nation Building and Jobs Plan Taskforce, which closed on 9 April. The EOI covered housing, land and multi unit dwellings on 870 sites, and formed part of the State's economic stimulus package. A list of approved tenderers is expected to be announced in June.

## **National School Pride Maintenance Program**

The Australian Government's National School Pride program will provide A\$277.5m in funding to 2,005 NSW schools, covering maintenance works and upgrades to facilities. According to the Department of Education and Training, schools may undertake their own project management where they can demonstrate their capability and willingness to take on project delivery and if they agree to take on full financial responsibility for any shortfalls. Equally, if the projects are not completed within the timeframes stipulated by the Federal Government, they will be liable for the full project cost.

The Master Builders Association of NSW has responded to the initiative by inviting small building industry contractors to lodge an expression of interest for involvement in the various regions of the State. Details of interested parties will be forwarded to the Managing Contractors in each of the State's regions.

Submissions for a second round of funding close on 9 May.

## **Smart Education Project**

As announced in a Breaking News story on [www.pmforum.org](http://www.pmforum.org) 27 April 2009, IBM has been awarded a A\$70m contract to deploy a secure, scalable wireless network across 463 public secondary schools over the next 12 months. The initiative will cover metropolitan Sydney as well as regional NSW schools.

**About the Author:****Jürgen Oschadleus, MBA, PMP****Author**

*International Correspondent for PMForum  
Based in Sydney, Australia*



**Jürgen Oschadleus**, MBA, PMP, is the Director of Act Knowledge Pty Ltd and the Managing Partner of Valense (Australia). Jürgen has over 15 years of experience across the globe in diverse industry and organizational settings. Formally qualified as an educator and trainer, he held a strategic consulting roles with Booz•Allen & Hamilton (South Africa), Concur UK, CPA International and the SAS Institute. He has helped deploy business solutions into blue chip companies across the UK, Europe and Asia Pacific. Jürgen is the author of *Heart of Influence*, and has written numerous articles and papers on leadership, influential communication and sustainable change. His training programs have been delivered on five continents, and he is a frequent speaker at international conferences and C-level Summits. He currently serves on the Project Management Institute's (PMI) Registered Education Provider Advisory Group, and is a co-author of the PMI's e-learning program on the *PMBOK® Guide to Project Management* (Third and Fourth editions). He is the Course Coordinator and Facilitator for Project Management and Supply Chain Management courses at the University of New South Wales, and presents graduate level project management courses for the University of Sydney. Jürgen is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), is DiSC- and SDI-accredited, and an Advanced Toastmaster (Gold). He holds an Education Diploma, a Masters degree in History and an MBA in International Project Management and Organisational Development, and a Certificate IV in Workplace Training & Assessment. Jürgen speaks Afrikaans, English and German, resides in Sydney and can be contacted at [juergeno@actknowledge.com](mailto:juergeno@actknowledge.com).