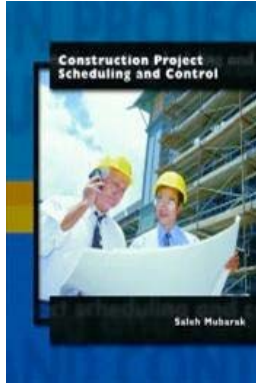


PM World Today Book Review



Book Title: *Construction Project Scheduling and Control*

Authors: SALEH MUBARAK

Publisher: Pearson Prentice Hall

List Price: US\$ 103.80 Hardcover

Publication Date: August 2004

ISBN: 0130973149

Volume: 416 pages

Reviewer: Florin C. Gheorghiu, PMP

Review Date: January 2008

Introduction to the Book

Well framed within the construction business the “CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SCHEDULING and CONTROL” book will foster the interests of a wide range of readers whether or not part of the industry. The work is well balanced between fundamental theory of scheduling and controlling and practical experience accrued straight from the field.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book is structured in twelve separate chapters and two extra appendices highlighting examples of reporting and filtering information in the Primavera Project Planner software environment and a glossary of terms as well.

The main part of the book's content is dedicated to scheduling theory and 10 chapters cover this process alone. Centered on the Primavera Project Planner-Suretrack software-scheduling tool the author goes through many practical examples and questions welcomed for those who are in the beginning of the learning curve. Important things concerning the methods for accelerating the schedule by crashing or fast tracking are also treated.

Further, the book gets through the monitoring and control issues, reporting and presentations, commercial aspects within project environment like contractual claim management, problems always accompanying projects on a large scale as those in construction industry.

Highlights: What I liked!

The dual approach from both perspectives practical and theoretical is probably the core benefit and highlight of the work. By studying the book in its entirety either students or fresh engineers or practitioners with considerable experience accrued from the field might find an attractive reason for learning new concepts or re-encountering old issues learned during the career path. Schedulers and Planners may both find the book as an important guiding tool in their daily activities when planning, monitoring and controlling a project's course.

One thing that is also laudable with the work is the abundance of short and explanatory examples tailored for scheduling, and even project monitoring and control, with direct links to the earned value methods.

The upsizing of book is also represented by extremely useful tips and tricks deriving from a contractual approach in project management: issues like claims management, unforeseen conditions in contract execution, payment mechanisms on construction projects, and some other important clues that might prove themselves as valuable tools for practitioners and students equally.

Even though the book is centered on the construction business, a fact that can be seen from the numerous examples of scheduled activities originating from the construction industry, the book keeps its red line from one end to another and stays essentially a Project Management work rather than a technical book.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

In the reviewer's opinion the book is very well balanced between practical and theoretical approaches. The simple fact that the experience of the author from the construction site and turning it into a theoretical and comprehensive study sets the book as a benchmark for the discipline.

However, overemphasizing the scheduling issues with more than half of the book is probably detrimental to the other issue debated, control.

Who might benefit from the Book

This is a valuable guide through the scheduling and controlling techniques, as well as a learning tool for the earned value and contractual approaches, for either practitioners in construction business or project managers who might have some involvement with construction projects during their careers. Students would find a learning tool to understand how some examples may apply in the real life.

Conclusion

The reviewer warmly recommends the book to all those dealing with construction projects of either small or large sizes. People in project management training might also benefit from the book paving the road for their class explanations as well. The book needs to be studied and not only read; it must be read through with paper and pencil for better understanding the calculations and concepts. Therefore this work is not in any event a vacation period reading book. It is rather a book that must be studied in the office with care and comprehension.

About the Reviewer:



Florin Gheorghiu



Florin Gheorghiu, PMP, is an International Correspondent for PMForum and *PM World Today* in Bucharest, Romania. Florin is also currently a Professional Project Manager and Head of Engineering and Planning Department for a local based branch of a Bucharest utility Company in the field of power and heat. He is also experienced working for EPC contracts within the construction industry for the industrial and real estate sectors. Florin has added much to its professional accruals when working on large power plant rehabilitation program financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD) and the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), and for Parsons Power (Gilbert Commonwealth), Lahmeyer International and Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L) as a project Consultant. Florin is a graduate of the Technical University of Bucharest in Power Engineering and the National School for Political Studies and Administration in Management. Mr. Gheorghiu can be contacted at fgheorghiu2001@yahoo.com. Additional information about Florin Gheorghiu can be seen at <http://www.pmforum.org/blogs/news/2006/11/florin-gheorghiu-becomes-pmf.html>