

Bookshelf – a review of what's new

Mastering Change Through Project Management

Lindsay McKenna

Michael Burbridge Publishing Ltd

£175 (including CD-ROM templates in MS Word format) £120 (book only). 945 pages

Lindsay McKenna has produced an outstanding reference work that clearly demonstrates how to approach, plan and execute a change-oriented project, using a holistic approach.

Public domain project management methods such as PMBOK and Prince 2 are available for organisations that wish to develop a formal and repeatable approach to managing projects. These methodologies focus on establishing a set of robust management processes, with the result that some users feel that they do not provide enough guidance in the area of specific tools/techniques. This is an area where this reference work can make a significant contribution.

McKenna's approach interweaves a well structured, solid, stage oriented, approach to project management with a rich selection of tools, techniques and tips that can be used from day one of a project to reduce the risk of failure and increase the potential delivery of benefits.

For example, there is a very practical 'fitness

for sponsorship' questionnaire to evaluate how effective a potential sponsor will be, a key success factor. A template is provided in Word format on the accompanying CD-ROM (which contains over 40 such documents) to allow immediate use.

Checklists are used extensively to reduce the risk of overlooking tasks in the 'pressure cooker' environment of a typical project, being reinforced by an appropriate amount of supporting quotations as highlighted balloons in the margins.

One key chapter, often overlooked in the workplace, covers assessing business readiness for implementation. Potentially good projects have sometimes failed to deliver benefits to their full potential because the transition from development to implementation was not managed as well as it could have been, so applying the contents of this chapter should reduce this risk considerably.

In summary, while it has not been possible to do this volume justice in such a short review, it is highly commended as a 'must have' acquisition for anyone involved in project management; The toolsets alone will give an impressive return on investment in the short term.

Reviewer: James Graham

Project magazine