



Industry:

Oil and gas exploration and exploitation.

Location:

Australia

Challenge:

With the demands placed on the energy industry to be more efficient and cost effective it is critical that RPS Energy be able to track their resources available to them and how they are deployed in the field. RPS Energy's task is to efficiently manage major hydrocarbon exploration projects in Australia and SE Asia. This requires them to closely coordinate with their international colleagues to develop and manage these complex and diverse projects by providing advisory and project management support to their clients. RPS Energy must efficiently deploy their experienced and specialized consultants to work individually or with the client's own team to achieve these aims.

Toolkit:



Solution:

ConceptDraw MINDMAP is used to pull together new draft processes and share it with other project team members.

ConceptDraw PROJECT manages the high-value resources that need to be deployed by RPS.

ConceptDraw PRO provides accurate project status at a glance using the scorecard templates provided.

Benefits:

ConceptDraw Office is a cost effective tool to track resources and effectively deploy and manage projects.

Paul Miller

Operations Manager

Managing Exploration Projects

RPS is an international consultancy providing advice upon the development of natural resources, land and property, the management of the environment and the health and safety of people. RPS Energy, a member of the RPS Group of companies, is a global multi-disciplinary consultancy, providing integrated technical, commercial and project management support services in the fields of geoscience, engineering, environmental management and safety & risk to the energy sector. RPS Energy Pty Ltd is based out of Perth, Australia with its head office in Woking, England. RPS started in the energy services only five years ago, but already claims an impressive reputation that makes it possible for RPS to continue to maintain and gain clients around the world.

"Having tried several project management software packages, ConceptDraw PROJECT came closest to meeting our project management objectives."

- Paul Miller

Operations Manager

As a leading consultancy, RPS Energy Pty Ltd not only manages major energy projects in Australia and SE Asia, they also work closely with their international colleagues on complex and diverse projects in international markets including North America, Europe, UK and Ireland. RPS Energy provides advisory and project management support, utilising over 800 experienced and specialist staff and subcontract consultants to work individually or within the client's own team. With the demands placed on the energy industry to be more efficient and cost effective it is critical that RPS Energy be able to track their available resources available and how they are deployed in the field.

Paul Miller is a Seismic Operations Manager for the South East Asia region within RPS Energy. His primary responsibility as Operations Manager is the placement of specialist Seismic and Navigation Data Acquisition QA/QC Consultants, HSE Consultants, Environmental Specialists (including Marine Fauna Observers), and Project Managers for Oil and Gas Exploration companies operating within the Asia, South East Asia and Australian regions.

His primary objective is to meet the high requirements and expectations of client companies when placing personnel, with the necessary skills and experience, to perform the duties associated with the specific seismic survey acquisition projects that are taken on by RPS Energy.

"In most cases, within my own particular department, this means assigning consultant personnel to Marine Seismic Survey Vessels or Land Seismic Crews, working anywhere in my region of responsibility, and mobilizing from locations as far as China, India, New Zealand and all points in between. My secondary role is to market our services to the industry." Mr. Miller states.

The many challenges of his primary role include the placement, scheduling, and relief rotation of a finite number of specialists, with differing skills and abilities to meet variable timings of project commencements and completions, within a very fast paced global industry.

Recruitment and retention of personnel is a continuing challenge, because of an industry-wide shortage of experienced candidates, brought on by the increase in exploration activities for a declining natural resource.

Due to the constant change of mobilization and demobilization schedules of the large number of seismic crews on which consultants are assigned, it is very important to keep constant control of available consultant resources and project commitments.

Mr. Miller explains, "It would be very easy to overlook a scheduling conflict without the use of a good resource and project management system. The consequences of not providing the right resource to the right location, would not only damage our company financially but also risk damaging our excellent reputation as a premium service provider within our field."

"Having tried several project management software packages, ConceptDraw PROJECT came closest to meeting our project management objectives. At the same time, PROJECT demonstrated itself as a cost effective option. The user interface of PROJECT is refined and intuitive, and the reporting features were further advanced than other packages we trialed. PROJECT also included features that were not found in other applications, such as Project-in-Project Insertion- a very handy function!"

After deciding on ConceptDraw PROJECT as the primary resource scheduling tool to be used in his Operations group, Miller was also inclined to try ConceptDraw MINDMAP to quickly and easily consolidate ideas regarding the structure of a new personnel resource administration and accounting system. MINDMAP made it simple and easy for Paul to produce professional looking tiered structure and organizational diagrams, to present a combination of ideas in a readily understood format. The integration of PROJECT and MINDMAP makes it very smooth and easy to reuse data in other formats with just a click of a button.



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"The simple and intuitive interface enables new users to quickly become proficient and easily grasp the project management software concept."

“When CD Office was released as a product suite with ConceptDraw PROJECT, ConceptDraw MINDMAP and ConceptDraw PRO, we were already looking at purchasing additional PROJECT licenses for other users in our organization. Having been impressed with PROJECT and MINDMAP, I was pleased to take advantage of the bundled pricing for all three products, when purchased as ConceptDraw Office suite. The addition of ConceptDraw PRO gave us the added advantage of producing automated graphic reports from project data. Although we are still in the early evaluation phase of ConceptDraw PRO, it appears that it is a valuable tool for the preparation and presentation of a wide variety of in-house generated graphics, including marketing presentations, company organization charts, technical diagrams and other diagrammatic representations needed in our day to day job functions.”

“I was pleased to take advantage of the bundled pricing for all three products, when purchased as ConceptDraw Office suite.”

“One of the most significant benefits of implementing the PROJECT application, which is the ConceptDraw product we utilize most, is that inexperienced users of project management software were able to begin using it quickly with very little training and a very small learning curve. The simple and intuitive interface enables new users to quickly become proficient and easily grasp the project management software concept. Experienced users of other project management software applications were impressed that PROJECT was so simple to use and yet fulfilled their project management requirements.”

Paul believes that the use of ConceptDraw PROJECT will invariably lead to the use of the other ConceptDraw products, due to the tight integration and simplicity of importing and exporting data between the individual applications.

Paul notes, “CS Odessa shows an eager interest in listening to its users, with an aim to meet their recognized needs. I have no hesitation in recommending the ConceptDraw Office products to my work colleagues, and management and business contacts.”

He continues, “The support provided by the company has proven to be one of the best I have ever experienced with any software developer, with rapid and positive responses from technical support inquiries. CS Odessa has also been extremely receptive to suggestions for improvement and further development of its products, which is also rare to find in a software development company.” ■



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