



Project Plan Services assist Xiros PLC the leading medical device company

Originally incorporated as Leeds Ligaments in 1984, Xiros plc was established in 2000 to provide innovative medical design, engineering and manufacturing services for minimally invasive surgical implants with a particular emphasis on textile-based solutions for sports medicine and orthopaedic surgery.

Working closely with the Xiros Innovations Director and Senior Project Managers', PPS was charged with the task of enhancing the project planning and reporting disciplines already in place within the well defined FASTRAX™ product development process.

Having identified and confirmed key requirements, PPS set about making recommendations and designing an integrated planning infrastructure utilising Xiros' existing project templates. Key deliverables to be achieved were:

- All base planning templates for different projects and project types were to be driven by the consistent underlying attributes of realistic project working time and reporting meta data
- A centralised resource pool would be required to develop forward planning systems that scrutinise workloads across projects to support informed decisions about project resources against company priorities
- Costing data was to be embedded within the infrastructure to allow Project Managers to accurately forecast both internal and external customer billable costs for people resources
- Project milestones and timelines were to be viewable at a rolled up level for management whilst retaining the ability to group "like" projects and drill down into plan detail when required
- All Plan data needed to be exportable to the existing company time sheeting system in order to allow for the aggregation of project and non-project working time

The solution built using Microsoft Office Project 2007 called for PPS to embed key scheduling and reporting attributes within the existing Xiros base templates so as to ensure all existing and newly created project plans would use consistent measures. These measures could then be reported upon centrally from within an overall Master Plan. The Master Plan was configured with a number of views and reports to facilitate the review of all project timelines and key milestones.

A central resource pool was put in place and included not only named human resources but workshop resources and generic resources to allow for "forward planning" of future proposed projects and local resource delegation to take place by e.g. workshop owners. Each project plan was connected to the central resource pool and this allowed for resource assignments and overloading to be monitored and managed across multiple projects.



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The configured solution employed a customised “project toolbar” which guided Project Manager’s through the lifecycle of creating, resourcing, base lining, tracking, reporting and closing down a project schedule. The entire infrastructure was then fully documented for each user role and after a Training Needs Analysis review an initial set of training material was made available for senior project managers to enable them to train other project team members.

PPS remain engaged with Xiros to offer advice and technical support for the existing infrastructure and future enhancements.

Marcus Orton, Xiros Innovations Director, commented on the PPS’ involvement; “we have made significant improvements to our project performance with the assistance of the knowledgeable and capable PPS team. PPS have helped us develop our effective use of project management software and disciplines. We look forward to continuing to benefit from this valuable business partnership”.

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