

## THE INDUSTRIAL COMPANY IMPLEMENTS PROLOG MANAGER

*TIC - The Industrial Company (TIC) is a top-ranked industrial contractor focusing on power, mining, coal, marine, water/wastewater, pulp and paper, food and beverage, general industrial process and related markets. With annual contract awards exceeding \$1 billion, TIC has offices throughout the United States. TIC's motto, "Powered by People", is a core value of the company and reflects a commitment to its unique culture and dedication to motivate its staff to excel. In the most recent rankings by Engineering News Record magazine, TIC ranked #38 on the top 400 contractor list and among the top 20 contractors in nine of the leading industries.*

### IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGE

As a national industrial contractor, TIC continually faces the challenge of meeting the diverse needs of individual clients throughout the United States and abroad.

To meet these needs, TIC developed a decentralized approach to project management. Different projects use a variety of project management tools including in-house developed systems. In the past, these various applications were not integrated with other TIC systems.

The main problem TIC faced was the lack of consistency between different project teams. Each team created their own project management system which made it difficult to provide consistent and standard reporting across projects.

### THE NEED

TIC - The Industrial Company (TIC) staff wanted a project management system to provide TIC professionals in the field with software tools that were functional. These tools needed to be integrated into the daily routines, allowing staff to do their job faster, better and with more consistency. At a corporate level, the chosen system needed to capture data for project controls purposes. TIC did not want to continue to support several different in-house systems.

### SELECTING A SOLUTION

During its search for a technology solution, TIC evaluated systems from more than 40 companies. Meridian Project System's Prolog Manager solution was selected as the best fit for several reasons. Prolog Manager is built on an open architecture and database (Microsoft SQL Server) allowing TIC to integrate Prolog Manager with other



internal systems. Prolog Manager also fulfilled TIC's 80/20 rule where Prolog Manager had 80 percent of the functionality TIC needed in a project management application. The remaining 20% would be accomplished by integrating Prolog with internal TIC systems.

### IMPLEMENTING PROLOG MANAGER

TIC initially purchased 25 licenses of Prolog Manager. The cost of the applications were charged to the individual projects. Today, TIC has expanded the implementation of Prolog Manager throughout the company and has 235 licenses on more than 40 projects throughout North America. The TIC Project Controls team provides implementation training for each project that uses Prolog Manager. At each jobsite, TIC engineers install the application and work with the project team to develop project workflow processes. The engineers also customize Prolog Manager, accordingly, to meet specific project needs and TIC corporate standards, and train appropriate staff.

The TIC implementation was phased in over time. The implementation began with document control functionality and

transitioned to material management, subcontract administration and cost control. This phased approach allowed the end users to gradually implement the technology, learn the feature sets and become effective without being overwhelmed.

#### BENEFIT OF USING MPS PRODUCTS

Because Prolog Manager's user interface is extremely intuitive and easy to use, the TIC implementation team was able to concentrate on customizing the program and output to fit into the project workflow. Each TIC project in Prolog Manager uses the TIC corporate template and is adapted to the specific requirements of the project.

The SQL database backend has made it easy to integrate Prolog Manager with the TIC corporate accounting and job cost system. TIC developed an XML data exchange program that synchronizes project information between remote sites and the corporate office. This has eliminated duplicate effort, reduced errors, and provided "real time" cost information for the TIC team members. As a result, TIC project teams have seen direct improvements in the control of project information. At a corporate level, TIC's project controls information is more consistent.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

Training is imperative. TIC users had the ability to view, edit and report information in Prolog Manager. Understanding and teaching the work processes that are impacted was a challenge. A good training program must teach users how to use Prolog Manager and how the tool can help them accomplish their part of the work process.

Another important lesson TIC learned is that implementation takes time and effort. The TIC corporate implementation was a phased approach. Individual project

implementations were adapted to the team's previous experience, commitment to the long-term vision, and skills.

Team buy-in from all levels is also important. Each Prolog Manager module that TIC implemented was initially done "at the project." TIC created buy-in from the team by allowing users to make suggestions, design output, and ask management to define objectives. This approach ensures that teams will continue to make their system work long after the implementation phase is over.



TIC is constantly changing and evolving the project implementations based on ideas coming from the people using it in the field. Many good ideas have been incorporated into Prolog Manager to make it a more effective tool for the project teams.

#### CONCLUSION

Prolog Manager provided TIC with a flexible tool to achieve consistency across all TIC projects. Prolog Manager's ease of use and customization features enabled project teams to manage day-to-day tasks. TIC management staff have a level of comfort that project controls information is accurate and up to date.

#### Client Contact

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TIC - The Industrial Company

*"Now that most of the TIC project teams have implemented Prolog Manager, they cannot imagine working without it."*

Paul Mitchell  
Senior Project Controls  
Coordinator

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