

PARSONS
&
U.S. COST
June 2008

Success Estimator: Lessons Learned
Cost Estimating Program Customization

Presented by: Parsons – Charlie Griffin
US Cost – Yancey Joiner

Background

- In late 2005 PIT began a search to standardize its estimating software.
- After an extensive selection process Parsons chose Success Estimator.

Envisioned Estimating Tool - Near term

- To be utilized PIT wide.
- Provide standardized reporting
- Provide required documentation (e.g. FAR compliant reports)
- Develop standardized estimating library/database
- Links to multiple resource databases

Envisioned Estimating Tool - Long Term

- Web enabled (based on accessibility)
- Time phasing functionality
- Dynamic assemblies/cost models
- Dynamic coupling to drawings
- Multi tiered web reporting
- Potential to link to cost reporting & finance

Initial Implementation

- Training
- Immediately rolled out to meet needs
 - Entered data as typically applied
 - Utilized existing standard reports

Road Blocks / Hurdles to acceptance

- Difficulties with applying indirect costs
- Limitations of entry fields
 - Six (6) Cost fields/groups
 - Labor, Equipment, Materials, Other 1, 2, & 3.
 - Limited number of code fields characters
 - 20 Tree/Folder Level code characters
 - 10 Resource code characters.
- Reports did not meet needs
- Interface with schedule

Short-Term/Interim Workarounds

- Difficulties with applying indirect costs
- Limitations of entry fields
 - Six (6) Cost Field Groups
 - Labor, Equipment, Materials, Other 1, 2, & 3.
 - Number of characters allowed for code fields
 - Tree Level/folder codes limited to 20 characters (e.g. 01.02.03.04.05.06.07).
 - Resource codes limited to 10 characters.
- Reports did not meet needs
- Interface with schedule

- Duplicate MS Excel estimate to breakout labor details.
- Data entry fields
 - Duplicate Excel estimate breakout of other details.
 - Cross walks with Creative standardization of coding
- Excel used for concise, easily traceable, FAR compliant reports
- Prepare to test schedule interface

Resolving Short-Term Workarounds

- Need to eliminate maintenance of duplicate estimates.
- Arranged onsite meeting between US Cost and Parsons.
 - Thoroughly detailed out expectations and requirements.
 - Worked out intricacies of Parsons required outputs within Success Estimator.

Long-Term Workarounds

- Difficulties with applying indirect costs
- Limitations of entry fields
 - Six (6) Cost Field Groups
 - Labor, Equipment, Materials, Other 1, 2, & 3.
 - Number of characters allowed for code fields
 - Tree Level/folder codes limited to 20 characters (e.g. 01.02.03.04.05.06.07).
 - Resource codes limited to 10 characters.
- Reports did not meet needs

- Changed implementation of indirect costs entry
 - This impacted implementation of Crew entry
- Data entry fields
 - Custom tags within same cost group
 - Crosswalks with Creative standardization of coding
- Standardize Reports within program.
 - US Cost provided means to access data
 - Crystal Reports provided flexibility to report data

Path Forward

- Success Enterprise
 - ❑ Substantially expanded in past 2 years
 - ❑ Expected to remove workarounds
 - ❑ Flexible reporting within program and through Crystal Reports.
 - ❑ Same functionality with database resources
 - ❑ Same functionality with schedule interface
 - ❑ Path to meet long term objectives

Lessons Learned

- Run test estimate through program.
- Schedule information exchange with vendor's technical staff
- Discuss intricacies of required outputs & programs limitations.
- Determine plan of attack to cover specific complexities

Conclusion

- Flexibility
- Good Working relationship
- Continued expansion of products