Track: Communication-Management-Governance Presentation: Integrated interface management

S. SHOKRI, K. MALONEY, S. MACGILLIVRAY, C.T. HAAS, R.C.G. HAAS. Integrated interface management system and project schedule. Gerontechnology 2012;11(2):198; doi:10.4017/gt.2012.11.02.457.00 Purpose The complexity of today's mega construction projects requires collaboration of various stakeholders, who may be geographically scattered. Therefore, effective planning, designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining these facilities requires good management and a sound technological foundation¹. Electronic product and process management systems (EPPMS) have emerged as a way to facilitate execution of mega-projects by linking project stakeholders over a range of distances via the internet. A major component of EPPMS is formalizing and automating communication between stakeholders by utilizing a process-driven interface management system (IMS). Interfaces are generally considered to be the links between different construction elements, stakeholders, and project scopes. Figure 1 illustrates three levels of interfaces in a construction project: inter-project, intra-project and extra-project interfaces. Industry leaders believe that interface management systems can be devised to reduce project issues and conflicts by improving alignment between stakeholders. In fact, poor interface management may result in deficiencies in delivering projects within the specified time and budget. One of the instant advantages of collaborative interface management is that is provides a tool to monitor the impact of IMS on the project schedule. This tool assists project owner and stakeholders to identify and address interface-related schedule risks. Method A process-based framework is introduced for IMS, including 5 steps: (i) interface identification, (ii) documentation, (iii) issuing, (iv) communication, and (v) closing. In the second section, the impact of IMS on schedule-related risks is discussed, which is facilitated by integrating IMS with the project schedule. For this purpose, the interrelationship between interfaces will be identified, and then interfaces will be correlated with tasks in project schedule. The proposed model and its application will be illustrated on a hypothetical project. **Results & Discussion** By integrating IMS and activities on the project schedule, project parties not only get a better understanding of the objectives and timelines, but also gain better insight into their roles and responsibilities in achieving those goals. An effective integrated IMS provides a tool to improve project performance through better alignment between stakeholders, enforcement of contract terms, and effective sharing and distribution of risk-related information between parties.

References

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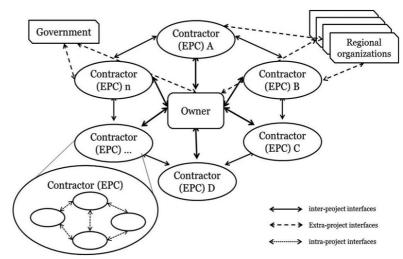


Figure 1. Levels of interfaces