



ONEVISION



MICROSOFT
DYNAMICS SL
ERP FOR
PROJECT
MANAGEMENT



INTRODUCTION

A project-based organization faces continuous challenges unique to this type of business. While many small businesses occasionally implement new software or make another significant investment that requires project management, project-based small businesses have ongoing concerns related to managing the costs and timelines of each project.

Cost

Determining the cost of a project before it begins requires a high level of insight into the potential changes that can occur over the course of the project. The project manager must be able to predict at least some of the changes that can occur when stakeholders increase the deliverables on the project. They must also make allowances for risks associated with the project, as well as increased labor and provide a margin for going over or under the planned expense of the project.

Timeline

Another important component of project management is a clear and focused coordination of a timeline for each step and the completion of the project. Each staff member with responsibilities associated with the project must be able to understand their role, as well as how timely completion of their components of the project affect the overall goals.

Communication

There are common misperceptions about how a project manager spends their time. While the perception is that a small business project manager concentrates much of their time on paperwork, Business 2 Community reports that 90 percent of a project manager's time is spent communicating with team members.

MANAGING CUSTOMER DEMANDS

Business 2 Community also reports that one out of six IT projects exceeds its budget by 200%, and 70% of projects run behind schedule. The excess spending and delay is often the result of customer demands.

Many project-based businesses experience their greatest difficulties surrounding the cost of the project when the expectations of the customer change and expand during the course of the project.

At the outset of a project, customers may be excited to launch the initial steps, without fully exploring the goals of the project and the solutions expected from implementing the project. The customer that rushes into a project is generally the one that will cause increased costs for the project-based business.

KEEPING PACE WITH COMPLIANCE

For those in a project-based industry, such as construction or government contract service, compliance with state and local regulations can be a significant complication in any project.

Companies that deal with intricate compliance issues have an added level of complexity to any project. Discovery of a compliance issue during the project can cause significant delays, as well as increased costs and frustration among all parties.

There is a significant need for tools to manage compliance concerns throughout a project to prevent delays and added costs. Without a sufficient software solution to manage compliance issues, a project manager can easily become entrenched in paperwork and failed communications about compliance issues.

THE VALUE OF ERP

Companies can use a variety of tools to keep projects on target when it comes to cost, compliance, communication and timeline. However, tools that manage only a specific aspect of the business, such as managing timeline or materials, can create inefficiencies and roadblocks for the project-based business.

An enterprise resource planning system (ERP) integrates software features specific to an industry, such as project-based work, with accounting and operations functions. The value of an ERP is multi-faceted: integrated workflow, real-time visibility of processes, and improved efficiency.

Without an ERP solution, project-based businesses will struggle to coordinate projects with other tasks within the business, such as time and expense management and accounts receivable and payable. ERP allows a business to manage not only the functions particular to project-based work, such as changing costs, timelines and communication, but also integrates those functions with that of accounting, customer service and operations.

MICROSOFT DYNAMICS SL

Microsoft Dynamics SL fills an important gap left by other accounting software solutions. Designed for the project-based business, Microsoft Dynamics SL provides comprehensive project management functionality with integrated solutions for resource planning, service and accounting.

Small businesses that provide project-based services, such as construction, government contract work, engineering or other services can benefit from the specialized capabilities found in Microsoft Dynamics SL. All project-based businesses can run efficiently with resource planning features, collaboration tools, government regulation compliance and timeline management.

Microsoft Dynamics SL handles not only the aspects of a business central to the functioning of a project-based enterprise, but provides a full ERP for the management of a complete range of activities. From payroll to operations, Microsoft Dynamics SL handles all of the aspects of the business.

Microsoft Dynamics SL utilizes the latest mobile technology, allowing information according to role to be available from any

ONE VISION SOLUTIONS

One Vision is the premier software provider for small and medium-sized businesses specializing in project management and government contract work. With a clear understanding of the internal processes of the project-based business, as well as experts in software solutions that serve this type of business, One Vision provides end-to-end business management solutions, ERPs and customized role-based dashboards for increased visibility and efficiency.

Specializing in both on-premise and cloud-based solutions, One Vision is a full-service consulting firm that assists small- to medium-sized businesses in implementing software solutions that work best for the company.

Microsoft.com recommends that companies wishing to purchase Microsoft Dynamics SL seek out a partner like One Vision Solutions. With expertise in the project-based industry and in selecting the appropriate software solution for each business, One Vision Solutions has been a trusted partner for Microsoft for over 20 years.

tablet, smartphone or laptop. Employees that spend some or all of their time in the field on location will be able to access the same information available to them in the office. These features allow for streamlined efficiency in project execution.

The software is flexible in its implementation, allowing for on-site installation or cloud-based hosting. Small businesses can benefit from the low cost and short timeline for implementation, as well as a high level of security and little additional time required of their own IT department when cloud software is installed. However, installation on site is an option for those that prefer to house the software under their own IT management.

Microsoft Cloud is ideal for the small, project-based business, because it easily scales with the business as it grows. Businesses only purchase the number of users they need, when they need them, and security is also easily adjusted as roles change in a growing business.

CONCLUSION

Project-based companies that specialize in areas such as construction, government service and engineering work have unique needs in an ERP. Changing requirements by customers, unexpected delays and other variables can make planning for costs and timeline challenging. Additionally, project managers spend a significant amount of their time striving to communicate effectively with the parties involved.

Microsoft Dynamics SL, offered through One Vision combines the specialized capabilities of an ERP designed for project-based business with a consulting firm that understands the challenges involved.



ABOUT ONE VISION

One Vision, a leader in implementing end-to-end business systems, enterprise resource planning systems and role-based dashboards, offers solutions with decision making tools so organizations can efficiently drive the operational and financial management of the business with real-time visibility. For more information on how One Vision's enterprise resource planning consulting services can take your business to the next level, visit www.onevisionllc.com.

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