

## **Preparing Project Leaders for Organizations of the Future**

This one-hour discussion reviews the latest thinking regarding the directional changes occurring in public and private industry regarding the practice of project management, and describes the fundamental shifts that must occur in the project management practitioner's world to perform well in this new and rapidly evolving environment.

The effective practice of Project Management and recognition of the importance of credentialing for project managers is becoming increasingly accepted - and in fact, is often a baseline requirement in government, non-profit and the private business community alike. This is evidenced by the growing demand for PMP-certified project management consultants and employee candidates.

That there is a need for sound project management practice in a broad array of industries is no longer a novel concept. To the contrary, effective project management practitioners are in high demand and are actively sought by corporations. They are seen as key drivers of core business initiatives and processes - while the ability for these organizations to claim sound project management competency, methodology and practice are an integral part of the corporate culture is represented as a strategic advantage and a baseline requirement in the high-stakes competitive environment they find themselves navigating.

With this in mind, simply having project management knowledge and obtaining a PMP (Project Management Professional) credential, recognized today as an entry-point qualification, is no longer sufficient, nor is it a differentiator for project managers. The idea of "selling the value of project management" into an organization is also rapidly becoming unnecessary. To a great extent, organizations today recognize the business value derived from employing strong project management methodologies and infrastructure and have moved well beyond the novice phase.

Organizations are deeply into the performance phase of their project management initiatives and are demanding an entirely new and different set of Project Management competencies, skills, judgment and experience to advance their strategic and operational performance over the long haul. This discussion highlights many of the performance expectations placed upon project managers in this evolving business environment and discusses the difference between project management and project leadership in the context of organizations of the future.