



May 2007 News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

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President's Message

As the season ends for our AACE section meetings, I want to reiterate statements that were made in May 2007's Cost Engineering magazine. AACEI's President, Jim Zack, states that the greatest project risk of all is the risk that fewer and fewer people want to enter the construction industry. He further states that young people do not want to go into the construction industry and that their parents apparently agree.

I'm sure that all of us are fully aware that we have entered into a period of time where human resources are limited and construction activity is booming. And with many of the people in the construction industry nearing retirement, the construction industry will begin to deteriorate unless young people are made aware of the need and benefits of joining the construction industry. As was stated in last month's newsletter, construction activity in the US represents 63 percent of our economy. Our society and lifestyle depends upon construction.

So how can we help? Jim Zack goes on to state that we need to get the message across to parents and youngsters about the future needs of construction. We need to change construction's image in order to attract new, young and bright talent for the future. And I believe all of us need to play a role in promoting a career in construction, whether it is as an engineer, a project manager, a cost engineer or as a craft worker. So whenever possible, promote our industry and our work as a suitable career.

I also want to thank the officers and directors of our section for making the Section a success this past year, especially Chris Swanson and Sanjay Mahajan.

Sincerely, Bob Boyd, PSP

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Section Announcements

Certification!!

AACEI now offers 6 certifications. Two recent additions are C3PM and CFCC.

1. Interim Cost Consultant Certification (ICC)
2. Certified Cost Consultant (CCC) / Certified Cost Engineer (CCE)
3. Planning and Scheduling Professional Certification (PSP)
4. Earned Value Professional Certification (EVP)
5. Certified Portfolio, Program & Project Management (C3PM)
6. Certified Forensic Claims Consultant (CFCC)

For descriptions and requirements regarding each of these certifications go to the AACEI web page (<http://www.aacei.org/certification/certExplained.shtml>).

Contact Chris Swanson (chris.swanson@fluor.com) if you have any questions or need assistance regarding any of the certifications mentioned above.

Continuing Education!!

Dr. Ken Humphreys will be teaching two continuing education courses for UNCC in November. One is on Contingency and Risk Analysis and the other is on Engineering Ethics. Both are one day sessions at UNC Charlotte Uptown and cost \$245. For additional information, please visit the following sites:

<http://www.continuinged.uncc.edu/1day/EngEthics20071128.htm>, the engineering ethics course

<http://www.continuinged.uncc.edu/1day/ContRiskAna20071129.htm>, the risk analysis course



May 2007 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on May 14, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Our guest was Han Picard from P+A Innovators, Corp. Han's presentation looked at the work process, measurements and analysis which were done on a FGD Project in order to identify productivity and current work practices. Here is a recap:

Hans explained that during the execution of a project, we all typically perform work activity analysis in order to determine productivity. But Hans has actually gone one step further by performing studies to determine productivity of craft workers at different times of the day.

In order to perform these types of analyses, you need to have key performance indicators such as work activities that are quantitatively measurable and work activities that at a sub-activity level can be considered to be a productive activity or non-productivity activity. In addition, labor productivity factors such as supervision, site logistics, shift readiness and safety all need to be analyzed.

Hans presented a pie chart that shows how labor dollars were utilized. It showed that for the FGD Project during a specific time period, craft labor was 75.7% productive, 13.2% was associated with Indirect effort (walking empty, waiting for equipment and tools, getting instructions or walking to get tools and materials) and 11.0% was associated with lost/idle time (getting ready and personal time).

Once you are able to identify the non-productive sub-activities, then discussion meetings can be held in order to identify means of mitigating these activities such that overall productivity can improve. For instance, having a tool runner instead of having craft workers walk to the tool room and stand in line waiting for tools. Having break areas close by or toilets nearby improves productivity by decreasing the walking time for this Indirect activity.

Hans also promoted having a strong Project Controls group in order to set and measure benchmarks. By carefully monitoring these benchmarks, you will be able to identify means of improving productivity. For example, on the FGD project, they were able to recommend that the assignment of construction FRP crews change from multiple crews to one or 2 crews. It was measured that a lot of time was lost waiting for the initial bonding joint to set before they were able to finish the joint. The recommendation was for a crew to go from one joint to the next and then return to the first joint after a period time so that no time was lost waiting. Of course some additional non-productive time occurred because they had to walk back to the previous joints but overall, lost time was mitigated.

The Upcountry SC Section thanks Han Picard for giving a very enlightening presentation. Anyone who wishes to obtain more information from Hans can contact him at www.boosconstructionproductivity.com.

September 2007 UpCountry SC Section Meeting

A speaker for the September 2007 section meeting has yet to be determined. A notice will be issued at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The date for the section meeting will be held on September 10. Enjoy the summer season. Be safe and we look forward to seeing you next season.

Schedule:

6:00PM to 6:55PM Registration, Networking and Hors D'oeuvres
7:00PM to 8:00PM Presentation / Program



Job Opportunities

Project Time & Cost, Inc., an Atlanta based national cost and forensic engineering consulting firm which is recognized as one of the leading cost management firms in the nation, is currently seeking individuals for the following positions in one or more of the following offices: Atlanta, Ga.; Arlington, Va.; Denver, Co.; and Richmond, Wa. Founded in 1982, PT&C provides cost engineering consulting services for commercial, industrial, civil works, and environmental cleanup projects to Architectural and Engineering firms, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. Our highly trained, client-oriented service professionals hold numerous professional certifications that bear directly on the quality and value of PT&C's professional consulting services. PT&C provides in-house training and financial support for certification candidates. Our Forensic division provides investigations with dealing with structural or mechanical failures, fires and explosions and much more. Our primary forensic clients are insurance companies and or law firms.

We offer competitive benefits such as medical/dental/vision, 401k, profit sharing, bonus plan, STD, LTD, PTO and much more! Project Time & Cost, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and is a drug- and alcohol-free environment. www.ptcinc.com

Cost Engineer/Estimator:

Duties and Responsibilities

The **Cost Engineer/Estimator** will produce cost estimates for a variety of projects ranging from private sector facility construction to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers infrastructure construction. This position requires technical knowledge of the construction work involved and the ability to master a variety of cost estimating methods and software. It requires two (2) to ten (10) years of experience in the cost engineering field or in a related area, including construction field engineering, contracting, claims and other industries relating to cost. At least two years of experience must be in cost estimating. The applicant should have a general knowledge of commonly-used cost estimating concepts, practices and procedures within a particular field, or discipline, such as civil, mechanical, electrical, etc. The applicant will rely on instructions and pre-established guidelines to perform the functions of the position and will work under immediate supervision, reporting to a cost engineering team leader or project manager. Further, the applicant will:

- Perform quantity surveys and quantity take-offs from drawings and specifications.
- Perform prevailing wage surveys.
- Use appropriate published cost indices and databases.
- Obtain material, process equipment and construction equipment quotes from vendors.
- Input estimating data to appropriate estimating application software.
- Prepare and file back-material for estimating detail.
- Perform miscellaneous other job-related duties as assigned.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Requires a 4-year degree plus two (2) to ten (10) years of experience in the cost engineering field or in a related area of which 2 years must be in cost estimating.
- Ability to achieve certification of the ICC, CCE or CCC (AACEI) within first year of employment with Project Time & Cost, Inc.
- Proficiency in computer skills including MS Office Suite.
- Ability to read drawings and specifications.
- Ability to rapidly learn and apply other cost estimating applications, such as MCACES 2nd Generation (MII).
- Effective oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work independently or in a team environment.
- Exhibit a high degree of professionalism in the production of deliverables and in interactions with fellow employees and client personnel.
- Travel to client offices or job sites as required; certain assignments require extensive travel.



Job Opportunities (Continued)

Primavera Scheduler:

Duties and Responsibilities

Provide support to the project management team in the form of project scheduling, monitoring and analysis. Work closely with project management team in setting project goals and analyzing the status of projects. Candidate is responsible for insuring the timely creation and maintenance of project schedules and reports. Must be able to integrate construction or DOE schedules into a master program schedule and continuously monitor progress with milestones and autonomy as well as develop and implement a monthly earned value analysis report. Create, monitor and maintain multiple schedules using Primavera P3. Aid the team in defining the projects goals, objectives, success factors etc.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Must have experience with Primavera (P3 & 5.0)
- Must have 5+ years experience as a cost engineer/scheduler
- BS degree in Engineering
- Must understand and utilizes PM processes and philosophies to advise management on project status.
- Actively participants with the project management team assisting in meeting project deadlines.
- Works effectively with internal and external clients.
- Responsible for maintaining a safe workplace and ensuring that safety is the highest priority in the workplace.
- Must be able to communicate effectively with all levels of management and personnel both verbally and written.
- Performs other duties as assigned
- Travel may be extensive depending on clients needs

Physical Requirements

- Must be able to sit for long periods of time
- Must be able to stare at computer for long periods of time
- May be required to stand, walk, and reach with hands and arms.
- Must occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds.



Job Opportunities (Continued)

Project Controls Specialists -

Duties and Responsibilities

The **Project Controls Specialist** will provide support to the Department of Energy in project management support functions including, but not limited to, baseline validation and review, estimating, planning, scheduling, and project performance assessment. The PC Specialist will also support internal and external project reviews and validations. In this role, the applicant will also be responsible for conducting and coordinating internal reviews and developing necessary corrective action recommendations in preparation for critical decision approval and project optimization. Further, the applicant will:

- Comparing actual performance with planned performance;
- Validating contractor identified corrective actions;
- Ensuring that federal project documentation is maintained over project/program life cycle;
- Conducting project management briefings and preparing reports to reflect program/project status, cost and schedule trends, funding and project uncertainties;
- Support in assessing M&O contractor readiness for OECM review and certification of the M&O contractor's Earned Value Management System (EVMS).
- Support in review and validating the M&O contractor baseline (scope definition, cost estimating, BCWS profile, and schedule) in preparation for OECM review and Critical Decision 2.
- Review and evaluation of M&O contractor EVM project performance reports, including identification of trends and recommend corrective actions to the DOE Federal Project Director (FPD).
- Periodic review and assessment of M&O contractor compliance with their EVMS description.
- Monthly input of EVM data into DOE's Performance Assessment and Reporting System (PARS).

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- 4 year degree
- Minimum 10 years experience in Project Controls providing cost estimates, planning/scheduling, baseline review, development and maintenance.
- Proficient in MS Office (Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook)
- Experience with Cost Estimating software tools
- Experience with Primavera.

Interested parties in any of the above positions should submit a resume to: jobs@ptcinc.com



2007 Meeting Schedule for AACE UpCountry SC Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Topic & Location
AACEI Annual Convention	Mon. to Wed.	16 to 18 July 2007	Nashville, Tn.
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	10 Sep 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	08 Oct 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	12 Nov 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	10 Dec 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville