



CASE STUDY

KC-46A Hangar Complex | McConnell AFB

Using SmartPM, Scheduling at Flintco
Has Become a Team Effort

“We saw SmartPM as a tool that presents the most pertinent points in a way that everyone can understand, whether it’s some detailed information for a team member or the scannable executive dashboard for the C-suite.”

- Melanie Gilbertson, Director of Production Support | Flintco

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“Using SmartPM levels the playing field and enables our teams to feel prepared going into a discussion.”

CHALLENGE

Nearly all of Flintco’s project teams develop their project schedules with input from everyone involved on the job.

“Being out at the job site, the project team is in a far better position than anyone to understand all the nuances of a project, as well as the risks and challenges,” said Melanie Gilbertson, Director of Production Support at Flintco. **“These are the people responsible every day for what’s going to be constructed. Consequently, they bring certain insights to the job that no one else can.”**

SOLUTION

The committee got wind of a program called SmartPM, a cloud-based platform for analyzing schedule data and producing reports that would identify potential delays, overruns, missing logic ties, and overoptimistic milestones.

What truly piqued Gilbertson’s interest was SmartPM’s ability to compile deep insights about the project schedule without resorting to a very technical, hard-to-use program. Flintco began a trial using SmartPM on three or four projects for a six-week period at the end of 2022; the platform’s features, including its intuitive interface and ease of use, convinced them to move forward with a 10-project pilot.

After just six months of use on those 10 projects, SmartPM had noticeably enhanced Flintco’s ability to monitor schedule data while saving time and reducing manual data input. The time savings were

RESULTS

Once an initial schedule is created, it is fed into SmartPM for rapid evaluation. The team relies on the platform to generate updates on a weekly basis, a timeline that is now more realistic. Meeting the goal of producing weekly updates is also critical because Flintco’s policy calls for the use of data that is a maximum of seven days old; making the weekly reports a consistent practice ensures that this policy is maintained.

What’s more, current data and timely updates are required elements of Flintco’s Lean2.0® program, the company’s signature approach to Lean construction that supports on-time completion.

Accountability is another positive byproduct of

However, the need for consistent, company-wide schedule quality convinced Flintco’s Innovation Committee to examine the available tools for schedule analysis.

In 2017, the company adopted a platform to handle this function, but it required extensive manual data entry and provided almost no trend analysis for any of the data. Flintco continued looking for ways to enhance analysis and speed up the extraction of data from the schedule.

dramatic. Subsequently, the decision was made to implement the platform company-wide.

Flintco has found the Quality Checker to be a particularly appealing feature of SmartPM. It provides a fast, accurate snapshot of the initial project schedule based on standard practices and guidelines established by the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI). The report generated from the Quality Checker highlights activities that can potentially cause problems and assigns a letter grade to the schedule.

The user-friendly and easily readable presentation format offered by the SmartPM platform also enables senior operations leaders to quickly review the key metrics and immediately see what has changed since the last update instead of endlessly scrolling through lines of information that are not relevant to them.

the platform. Flintco can now track trade partner performance to ensure they’re doing precisely what they’re supposed to be doing. And if a difficult conversation occurs, senior leaders have complete data to back up their position. It also works the other way.

“We’ve had instances of clients who had an owner’s representative or a third-party scheduler using a similar program to backcheck our schedules,” Gilbertson explained.

“Using SmartPM levels the playing field and enables our teams to feel prepared going into a discussion about their project schedule. They know exactly what to expect.”



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