

Space Flight Hardware Project Planning and Controls Case Study

Project Mission and Background

A leading aerospace technology company producing commercial space mission hardware and capabilities began the design and development of auxiliary equipment for autonomous satellite servicing missions. To effectively manage this \$37M program, the client needed additional planning and controls resources immediately. Internal resources were unavailable due to the needs of larger programs.

Challenges

Our initial assessment discovered:

- The program needed Program Planning and Control (PP&C) personnel and expertise that were not available internally.
- The delivery schedule had slipped significantly because of program resource conflicts.
- The scope had increased without sufficient change control, impacting schedule and cost.
- The program was reporting negative cost variance to the customer.

Our Approach

Lewis & Fowler was engaged to assist the program management team with the planning and scheduling activities. We quickly determined the need to use a PP&C consultant to fill the resource gap returning the schedule to “green”.

In a short period of time our PP&C consultant:

- Streamlined the program status reporting processes used to gather and communicate program performance metrics.
- Improved the change control procedures used to document and manage all scope change requests.
- Implemented a process to negotiate dates between the functional teams responsible for fabricating and testing the flight hardware.
- Assisted in the negotiation of engineering priorities for the team.
- Optimized the flight hardware test plans to compress the schedule through a credible re-baselined process.

Direct Benefits

Lewis & Fowler regained control of the program scope, documented the schedule impacts of the customer requested changes, installed processes for negotiating work packages resulting in a credible schedule baseline. This reduced the overall cost of the program scheduling and planning while improving the overall program performance, increasing the program’s credibility. Lewis & Fowler provided the “right people, at the right place, at the right time, for the right price.”

Summary

Lewis & Fowler quickly responded to the needs of our client, providing them with a Program Planning and Controls consultant with the skills and experience that could rapidly respond to the needs of the program with benefits measurable in the first week of the engagement.