

Research Project

Identification and Analysis of Existing Complex Project Management and Complexity Research

Traditional project management is struggling in the face of increasing complexity in today's interconnected world, with human factors (such as social complexity due to political and cultural dynamics) identified as the main barriers to success.

Governments and corporations from around the world have invested significant resources into identifying and understanding the causes of failure in complex projects. This initial research has led to the emergence of the concepts of complex project management (CPM) and a growing recognition of the need for a range of new skills, education and tools to address CPM.

As an independent, not-for-profit body, the ICCPM Knowledge Development and Dissemination Centre (KD2) is in an unrivalled position to provide decision-makers in industry and government with credible, independent assessments of issues of complexity facing the management of specific projects and organisations.

KD2 research projects provide organisations with a mechanism via which to test potential collaborations, new CPM techniques and people development options without exposing themselves to the risks of project failure. The use of research projects as risk reduction activities provides organisations with greater 'options' with which to explore emerging CPM solutions for future complex projects.

ICCPM KD2 Research Aims & Methodology

Within the overarching objective to "advance CPM knowledge and practice", ICCPM has identified the following strategic research aims:

- the context of modern project management;
- the review and integration of existing and emerging CPM knowledge and practice;
- the generation of new CPM knowledge and practice.

Research Proposal

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There are many academic and research organisations around the world which are currently engaged in, or have previously conducted, research into the management of complexity. This research spans academic and professional disciplinary boundaries and areas of practice across the range of human endeavour.

ICCPM proposes to conduct a global study to identify existing knowledge on managing and addressing issues of complexity, establish a permanent reference source, and to provide advice to government and industry on ways to better manage complexity and complex projects. The research project will be conducted in two stages (see inset).

Project completion is scheduled for the second quarter of 2013.

Project Stages

Stage 1: Led by a team of senior academics, a group of researchers from around the world will conduct a literature review to build a perpetual reference source for high quality research in the management of complexity.

Stage 2: The reference source will be analysed by specific discipline and cross-discipline leads to identify practical actions and tools for government and industry to better manage complex projects and program delivery.

Funding the Project

ICCPM is seeking funding for this research project including in-kind contributions and donations.

For information on how you can get involved, or more details about the research project, please contact:

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