Biotechnology company Crucell uses Innate Resource Manager to report across multiple MS Project plans

Based in Leiden, the Netherlands, Crucell's mission is to be a leading biotechnology company developing vaccine and antibody products to prevent and treat infectious diseases. Crucell will meet its strategic goals by developing vaccines and antibodies to fight infectious diseases based on the Company's unique PER.C6® technology, which facilitates faster, easier, safer and more cost-effective development than conventional methods. Key criteria for their development pipeline are short time to market and a modest cost per program.

With their rapidly growing R&D staff, Crucell runs everything as a project, using MS Project for all their planning of individual projects. To this, they have added Innate Resource Manager so that they can easily see the big picture across all their programs, allowing accurate analysis of resource requirements.

What Crucell needs to be a successful business.

The development of vaccines and antibodies is highly complex and a wide range of skilled resources manage, support and conduct the projects. Several of these development projects are conducted in close collaboration with US and European partners. The projects –and hence also the resource usage– change continuously in response to the results of experiments and studies. Not only does Crucell need to manage each individual project well, they also need to see the big picture across the whole portfolio. It is important to accurately monitor the need for each type of resource –about 25 different ones- and anticipate future needs. This allows for the timely hiring of skilled people or the outsourcing of specific tasks. For Crucell it is vital to keep its shareholders and its partners confident that Crucell will deliver on time.

Situation before Innate

Prior to installing Innate, Crucell got some way towards seeing the big picture by exporting data from individual MS Project plans into MS Excel. But this approach was time-consuming, prone to mistakes and inflexible, and it was not easy to generate all the information they needed.

Crucell's requirements were common to all such companies. They needed to:

- Improve the visibility of resource allocation across their project portfolio
- Incorporate all their MS Project plans for each individual project, as well as non-project plans requiring resource support
- Identify all their resource shortfalls in good time
- Provide numerical and graphical resource allocation information to senior management, line management and project management
- Execute what-if scenario analyses to evaluate the band width of resource needs

And following a short trial, they chose Innate software to help them do it.

Innate Management Systems

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The Innate solution for Crucell

Crucell has implemented Innate Resource Manager, synchronised with project plans in MS Project for all staff in R&D. The Innate system met Crucell's requirements out of the box; there was no need for any special customisation and it was simple for Crucell to implement without any on site help from Innate.

Users access Innate through MS Project or their browser.

All projects are registered centrally. The MS Project plans can contain a mixture of work assigned just at skill or role level, and other work down to real people. Using Innate Resource Manager's MS Project add-in, a simple click will synchronise the project plans with Innate to update the central database.

Reports on planned resource usage appear on each resource manager's Innate Home Page on their browser, and they can run reports as they need them, saving their preferred layouts as favourites. All tabular reports can be exported to Excel at the click of a button, and Innate also provides some excellent stacked histograms showing planned usage of each role for each project or project status in the pipeline, against capacity. So the shortfalls are easily seen by all senior managers.

Permissions are easily set up governing who can see the planned workload on each role and project.

Innate has been able to provide a solution with a single database of plans, synchronised with MS Project and accessed entirely through the browser. And the whole multi-user system is easy for all parties to use.

Benefits to Crucell

The direct benefits to Crucell are much less time and effort expended on reporting across their MS Project plans, and greater and easier visibility to everyone who needs to know.

And the benefits to their partners will include greater certainty of timely delivery and responsiveness to change through better resource management.

Dr. Michel Briejer, Crucell's Director Strategic Planning says 'We were looking for a much better way to analyse and report across all our MS Project plans, and Innate is the ideal solution for this. It was easy to evaluate and implement and provides exactly the kind of analysis and reporting we need, with virtually no effort.'

Innate Management Systems