

Why do we need LEAN Project Management?

Lean is a journey of continuous improvement that is intended to provide a range of benefits to an organization such as productivity gains, competitive advantages, a motivated workforce, sustained growth, and ultimately operational excellence.

For this journey to be successful in the longer term an organization must strive for excellence through its people at all levels. There are many well documented practices tools and processes of which Lean Project management is one.

Why another project management approach?

With the high number of projects that either fail or fail to meet customers' expectations it is necessary to consider another approach to how we manage projects. Lean project management looks at this problem in a different way from the traditional approach where it is almost impossible to define the cost and time parameters accurately unless you have previously managed a very similar project.

So how does Lean project management differ?

The Lean approach focusses on defining the customer value, breaks this down into smaller elements of usable value, then delivers these elements incrementally and measures these against the expected value and quality, and cost and timeframe parameters .

This incremental approach to project management is aligned with the lean philosophy of continuous improvement and the lean principles of lean thinking.

- Define the customer value rather than detailed requirements
- Use value stream mapping to design and prioritise the deliverables
- Eliminate those features and functions rarely or never used (waste)
- Deliver incrementally based on prioritised value
- Through measurement and adjustment perfect the process.



Lean Principles

Lean project management is highly applicable and adaptable to any industry, with its focus on delivering usable business value, rather than attempting to meet arbitrary cost and schedule criteria.