

Project appraisal and risk management

Overview

Where should management effort be directed? In controlling costs and ensuring proper engineering in live projects? – yes, of course, but true cost control comes by understanding, eliminating and minimising risk prior to a business committing any funds. This course studies the stages required for practical financial and business appraisals of projects and capital expenditure.

Learning objectives

This course has two primary objectives:

- To impart the knowledge and skills required to ensure as risk-free as possible expenditure of that scarce resource, cash – the investors', governments' or shareholders' money must not be squandered.
- To improve the quality of the appraisal process in the widest sense – demonstrating how the process of project and capital expenditure appraisal can be used to dramatically improve cost control and deliver as risk-free as possible expenditure.

As a result of the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the economics of appraisal
- Be in control of their projects from the start
- Understand the economics of their projects – and devise the most appropriate model
- Carry out sensitivity analysis and identify risk
- Improve their methods of appraisal and approach
- Focus on the risk areas and take out risk and control costs before they over-run

The benefits of attending this course will be demonstrable from day one. Thorough appraisals and risk assessment follow through to success in project management and detailed cost control and project management.

Who should attend?

All senior executives, accountants, project managers, engineers and others who need to:

- Review or learn the concepts and measures used in project or capital expenditure appraisal
- Develop their company and personal process of project or capital expenditure appraisal
- Focus themselves and other members of the team on the risks which must be managed to ensure successful project outcome – delivery on cost

Course format

A very practical two-day programme comprising straightforward, plain-speaking lecture sessions, interspersed with practical exercises and case studies, all backed up by full notes with sample checklists and models which will enable participants to take quantum leaps in their appraisals of expenditure, whether on plant and equipment or on entire projects.

Special features

A disc containing the checklists, process schedules and the various demonstration models will be given to each participant, together with a comprehensive set of notes.

The expert trainer

Ralph is, unusually, dual-qualified as both an engineer and a chartered accountant. Having worked initially as an engineer, he qualified as an accountant and was a manager in one of the big international accountancy firms before setting up his own accountancy and consultancy practice. His clients include many international businesses from the banking, power, telecom, oil, manufacturing, engineering, construction and retail sectors.

He is an acknowledged expert in the area of project and capital expenditure appraisal. The author of *Practical Investment Appraisal* and *Successful Project Appraisal*, he is also a consultant to a number of international banks on their internal and external appraisal measures. He believes passionately in the importance of practical methods for improving investment appraisal and subsequent project / capex cost control.

Ralph is in great demand as a lecturer and trainer. He presents technical update courses on behalf of professional organisations such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and the Institution of Chemical Engineers as well as public training programmes on behalf of commercial organisations in the UK and internationally on finance for non-accountants, cost reduction and other subjects.

Ralph's unusual combination of depth of technical expertise with breadth of approach and excellent training skills makes him a very popular trainer with audiences from all backgrounds and at all levels. See what people have said about his training:

'A very good presentation'

'Was eloquent and seemed to genuinely enjoy talking about subject matter'

'Quizzes helped me to think more about fraud'

'Good mix of teaching and group work'

'Energetic trainer'

'Raised my overall awareness of fraud and its different aspects'

'An entertaining review of a potentially dry subject'

Course outline

1 Introduction

- Why appraise?
- Taking risk out of investment
- The short- and long-term results of not appraising business expenditure

2 Developing an appraisal process

- The process – overall and stage-by-stage objectives
- Understand business and technical risks

- Manage resources and time
- Do you invest enough time and effort at this stage?
- Take out the risks – control costs before you are committed to contracts and action
- Checklists

3 Appraisal arithmetic

- Review of the arithmetic of appraisal
 - The time value of money
 - The effects of different interest or required rates
 - The effects of inflation (or deflation) in prices and costs
- Understanding the economics of appraisal is essential

4 Appraisal measures

- Meaning and use of appraisal measures
- Identifying the most appropriate measures for your particular business
- Payback
- Discounted cash flow measures – NPV and IRR
- Other measures – FW, AW, Profitability Index
- The meaning of the measures and their application in practice

5 Cost benefit analysis

- The effect on decision-making of more intangible benefits
- Cost benefit analysis
- Ensuring costs are genuine
- Measuring intangible benefits
- Environmental issues
- Consideration of intangible benefits in the appraisal decision-making process

6 Developing appropriate models

- Developing models – examples of spreadsheet models and measures for many different situations
- Modelling investment opportunities – summarising outcomes
- Sensitivity analysis – identifying, quantifying and taking out risk

7 Developing an appraisal process

- The process – managing risk from the outset
- Using the process in risk management, negotiating and project management
- Take out risk by thoroughly knowing your project – developing your own process

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