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Project Management News from Portugal

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PM Ambassador Mr. Wayne Abba presents at the 1st Earned Value Management Conference in Portugal – pioneering event has gathered the presence of major national organizations

The *1st Earned Value Management Conference in Portugal* took place on the 7th of November 2008. The event was a major success being the first time that a conference dedicated exclusively to Earned Value Management has taken place in Portugal. This is clearly a landmark that recognizes and celebrates the *de facto* adoption of this core Project Management technique and best practice in Portuguese organizations.



The conference was organized by PMO Consulting, a Lisbon based company fully specialized in Project Management, and took place in the gorgeous *Pestana Palace Hotel* in the heart of the city of Lisbon, just by the Tagus River.

The event attracted the attention of over 50 participants from various industries, including software development (Critical Software, Alert, SAS), electrical infrastructures (EFACEC), telecommunications (Motorola, Alcatel), railway infrastructures (Ferbritas, REFER Group), banking (SIBS, CGD), engineering & construction (COBA, Tagus Park), among others.

PM Ambassador **Mr. Wayne Abba**, pictured at right, was the guest keynoter. He delivered a very interesting workshop en-



titled “Achieving Project Performance through EVM” focused on the discussion of EVM as a key element of government program management transformation in the United States. Wayne also discussed the role of industry and professional associations in the adoption of EVM, and summarized the lessons learned in the US Department of Defense.

In the second part of his Workshop, Mr. Abba presented EVM as a Resource Management tool. He referred to a number of new developments in the EVM metrics system, some of which were conceived and are used in Portugal for PMO Consulting Clients.

(Alexander Rodriguez of PMO Consulting at podium)



The conference started with the impressive presentation delivered by **Mr. Eduardo Branco**, Chief Executive Officer of Portugal Telecom Information Systems, a 1000+ employees company within the Portugal Telecom Group. In his presentation, entitled “From Project Management to Organizational Management,” Mr. Branco explained how Earned Value Management is currently being used by his company as the basis for managing overall business performance.

This has been the result of over 5 years of work in collaboration with PMO Consulting, where Earned Value was progressively introduced in the organization through both training and pilot projects. This presentation has demonstrated the positive benefits and impacts that result from a project-based organization using EVM at the core of its business management system.



The following presentation was delivered by RAVE, the company established by the Portuguese Government in 2000 to manage the 8+ billion Euro program to implement the high-speed train network within Portugal and linking to Spain. This is currently the key major investment that will dominate the Portuguese economy for the next

decade through both its direct and indirect impacts.

This presentation was delivered by Mr. Socha Pereira, Director of Quality for RAVE, who discussed how the use of modern project management best practices will be pursued by RAVE’s program as a key success factor for the overall outcome. In



particular, Mr. Pereira referred to Earned Value Management as the key tool selected by RAVE for measuring performance and interfacing with subcontractors. This presentation clearly illustrated the vital role that EVM will play in the future of a major multi-billion Euro infrastructure program.



The last presentation, before Mr. Abba's workshop, was delivered by Critical Software, one of Portugal's major successes in software development. Critical Software is currently undergoing a major internationalization effort, with offices in Portugal, US, UK and Romania. They have a large portfolio of prestigious Clients such as the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA. Mr. Gonçalo Quadros (CEO) and Ms. Ana Guimarães (COO), explained how

EVM, as a performance measurement best practice in a projectized business, is being used as a competitive advantage in this internationalization effort. They also explained how intensive Project Management training aimed at PMP certification has helped in developing the required organizational culture. This presentation has demonstrated how EVM can be used as a strategic tool to develop a business in an increasingly aggressive and dynamic international market.

Just before the lunch break, Computer Associates (CA) delivered a demonstration to the audience of its advanced Project, Program and Portfolio Management product, the Clarity System. The seamless integration with various scheduling tools including Microsoft Project, the ease of customization, the explicit program management features and the high performance achieved in accessing information remotely, were all clearly demonstrated.



In the closing presentation, PMO Consulting, the host organization for this event, briefly discussed their 10+ years of experience in helping organizations across various industries in the practical adoption of Earned Value Management, including NATO (NC3A, Defense, in Belgium and The Netherlands), BHP Billiton (MOZAL and QNI, natural resources, in Africa and Australia), Portugal Telecom, Motorola (Portugal, telecommunications), TEKA (Portugal, manufacturing), Volkswagen-Autoeuropa (Portugal, automotive), EFACEC (Portugal, electrical infra-structures), and CGD, Cofidis and Millenium (Portugal, banking).

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Alexandre Rodrigues is an International Correspondent for **PMForum** and **PM World Today** in Portugal. Dr. Rodrigues is also Executive Partner of PMO Consulting and a Senior Consultant with the Cutter Consortium. Alexandre holds a degree in Systems and Informatics Engineering from the University of Minho (Portugal) and a Ph.D. from the University of Strathclyde (UK). He is a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP®), a Chartered Member of the Portuguese Association of Engineering (CEng), and a member of the British Association for Project Management (APM). Alexandre was founding president of the PMI Portugal Chapter and is currently a PMI Component Mentor for Central and Northern Europe. Additional information about Dr. Rodrigues can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>. Alex can be contacted at Alexandre.Rodrigues@PMO-Consulting.pt.