

Success Story



Client: City of Seattle

Client Comments

“Working with the SpearMC resource was a very productive and pleasant experience. Her knowledge and expertise in PeopleSoft financials, general accounting and government business practices was crucial to completing our project within our tight schedule. She was very thorough. She willingly and clearly shared her knowledge, and her recommendations are very much appreciated.”

*Victoria Galinato,
Director of Accounting Services,
City of Seattle*

Applications

- Project Costing
- General Ledger
- Commitment Control
- Asset Management
- Purchasing
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Billing
- PeopleSoft FMS/SCM v8.8
» On Oracle 11i database

Client Background

Seattle is a major city and seaport located in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. As of 1 April 2009, the city had an estimated municipal population of 602,000. The Department of Executive Administration (DEA) provides a variety of services to City departments and the public, including Citywide operational responsibilities for accounting, payroll, purchasing, consultant contracting, and the City’s financial management and personnel data systems.

Project Summary

SpearMC was engaged to assist the City in a review of the current business practices surrounding the PeopleSoft accounting Chartfields used across its 26 Departments. The assessment focused on the Project Costing module and its many integration points with all other modules owned by the City.

The “current state” information gathering process consisted of a survey and various group meetings with departments that work on Capital Improvement Programs. SpearMC also had to conduct a detailed analysis of the current usage of the City’s PeopleSoft Financial System and its various complex customizations. This analysis, in conjunction with the Department survey responses, was the basis of all recommendations made to support the conceptual design of standards.

Value Proposition

In July 1999 the City implemented PeopleSoft’s Financial System intending to meet the Y2K requirements, while maintaining all functionalities of the former system. Although the Financial technology has evolved since 1999, the City’s business practices and usage of that system have not. Many components of the system design date back to the proprietary mainframe financial software because they were carried forward with every technical upgrade with minimal regard to business process reengineering. The City’s inability to quickly generate and gather cross-departmental financial data is not due to the shortcomings of PeopleSoft, but is the result of failing to maximize the capabilities of PeopleSoft.

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Benefits Realized

SpearMC’s final recommendations outlined how the current PeopleSoft accounting chartfields (used across the 26 City Departments) needed to be standardized and which system features / functionalities needed to be implemented in order to fully realize the following business goals:

- **Provide centralized reporting** across all departments;
- **Provide effective monitoring** of multi-department capital improvement projects, while meeting the information and accountability requirements of program/project managers;
- **Enable compliance** with FASB, GASB, FERC, BARS, and other federal and state regulatory reporting requirements;
- **Support standardization** of accounting, financial and business processes;
- **Improve transferability** of accounting subject matter expertise across departments; and
- **Reduce business and financial risk** by maximizing the City’s investment in the Oracle / PeopleSoft technology.

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