

Dear Reader

Welcome to Aspire Europe's first newsletter – which we intend to write monthly

The purpose is to keep you updated on developments in the world of programme, change and project management.

Content:

- P3O – the missing link?
- Upcoming events
- P3M3 – it is out there, alive and kicking
- MSP Practitioner faster, cheaper, better
- Welcome to our new kids on the block

Best wishes,

Rod Sowden
Aspire Europe Ltd

P3O – Portfolio, Programme and Project (P3) Offices (P3O)

P3O is the latest publication from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and is a highly practical guide on how to set up and run P3 offices. The book and training includes many practical examples of organisations who have implemented P3O well, and provides implementation strategy which will enable organisations to get the best out of their investments and even a business case to help you win the argument.

In some respects, P3O is the glue that gels Portfolio, Programme and Project Management frameworks together at the practical level. It explains how to build the infrastructure, manage the interfaces and develop the processes, tools and techniques that need to be deployed to establish a truly effective P3 Office environment.

Please contact us to develop the programme management capability and culture within your organisation.

Next month – a briefing on the pending “Portfolio Management” guidance.

Upcoming events

November has been a busy month for our public speaking commitments. We presented at the UK BPUG Congress (Best Practice User Group) conference in the Potteries and a BPUG event in Copenhagen

For those that are interested in finding out how MSP and the new PRINCE2 will fit together, a workshop is being delivered at Chester University on the 15th December

in conjunction with the Best Practice User Group. Andy Murray (PRINCE2 lead author, not the tennis player) and Rod Sowden will be working with delegates on how best to achieve this in organisations.

If you work in the local authority arena, the SW Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership are holding their Culture Conference on the 12th December, where Rod Sowden and the Director for Transformation, Bristol City Council, will be talking about how to go about establishing culture change through programme management. Information is available from www.swcoe.gov.uk

If you happen to be in Poland the day before (Gdansk), we are delivering a workshop with their university on the latest trends in programme and project management.

P3M3 – it's now out there.

The OGC Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Maturity Model (P3M3) has now been out there for 3 months and Aspire Europe Ltd have had the opportunity to road test it extensively. It has already achieved an extraordinary foothold, with recognition of the name and the concept far exceeding the previous version.

The free Self Assessment tool has been key to enabling people to access, what at first sight, appears to be an intimidating toolkit. The main features of the new maturity model include:

- Ability to independently assess project, programme or portfolio maturity
- Ability to use it thematically, e.g. risk, governance or maybe resource effectiveness
- Written in plain English rather than techie speak

You may have seen one of the presentations during the autumn, if not, we have a public training course, delivered in conjunction with Outperform Ltd, scheduled for the 18th December in London. If you would really like to get to know how to use it – it will be well worth attending. Please visit [our website](#) for details.

MSP Practitioner – now in 4 days

We are changing our public Practitioner course timetable from 5 to 4 days. We believe that our clients will appreciate this change. We have trialled this format several times and found that the results are as good as the five day format.

We continue to develop our functional training and now offer a range of applied courses which cover Stakeholder, Benefits, Vision & Blueprint, Planning and Risk management in one day dedicated modules. We are also offering role based training, in particular for Directors (Senior Responsible Owners in MSP language), Business Change Managers and Programme Office staff.

We deliver training all over the UK and abroad. The full public course schedule for 2009 is on [our website](#), please use the course finder menu on the right hand side. Contact us direct for in-house training.

Courses in January to April include:-

Managing Successful Programmes (Foundation and Practitioner):

- 19-22 January, Bristol
- 16-19 February, Bath
- 16-19 March, Bristol
- 20-23 April, Thatcham

Business Change Manager:

- 24-25 January, Bristol
- 2-3 March, Bristol

Benefits Realisation:

- 11 February, Bristol

Principles of Change Management:

- 14-16 January, Bristol
- 15-17 April, Bristol.

New kids on the block

I am pleased to announce we have 2 new joiners this month. Connor is studying for a Business Administration diploma and joins us as our first modern apprentice, he will be working hard behind the scenes to apply his new found skills and deliver the best possible service for our customers.

Roger will be delivering change & programme management training and programme maturity assessments. He has ten years experience in the public sector as a Civil Servant and change management consultant and will be a great new asset to our team.

In future editions we will provide profiles of our key team members for you.

Contact us

Public courses can be booked at www.aspireeurope.com.

For all other enquiries please phone the office on 01275 848 099 or email kath.merryweather@aspireeurope.com.

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