

# Building Owners Cost Engineering Organizational Capability

Tim Mitchell

Chevron



# **Tim Mitchell Biography**

#### • Degree

- B.S. Civil Engineering, 1986
- Mississippi State University
- Professional Field:
  - Upstream Oil & Gas Industry
  - Major Capital Project (MCP) Management
  - Facilities Engineering Offshore Oil & Gas Production
- Experience
  - 26 years with Chevron
  - 21 years with Chevron's Project Resources Company (PRC)
  - Completed 5 MCPs in Nigeria, Angola and US Gulf of Mexico
- Current Role
  - Manager of Cost Engineering PRC
  - Cost Engineering Functional Head
- Professional Certifications
  - PE (Inactive)
  - PMP (04586)



### Overview

- The Problem
  - Inconsistent Cost Engineering Capability
- The Cost Engineering Capability Initiative
- Alignment with Enterprise Strategies
- Strategic Decision Why TCM Framework?
- Initiative Phase Gate Approach
  - Select Phase
  - Develop Phase
  - Execute Phase
  - Operate Phase
- Lessons Learned and Conclusions
  - Lessons Learned Using TCM Framework
  - Conclusions

# The Problem

### Inconsistent Cost Engineering Capability

- Historically, Chevron found:
  - Competent Cost Engineering could be purchased from our contractors
  - Chevron had a small staff of cost and scheduling experts to provide assurance and to support early estimates
- A decade of growth in project activity in the oil & gas industry which has taxed contractors ability to deliver:
  - Increase in the number, size, location and complexity of capital projects
  - More technically challenging projects (for example, deepwater)
  - Inconsistent contractor competencies and capabilities to deliver projects
  - Contractors more risk averse shifting more cost and schedule risk to the owner (for example, reimbursable contracts)

# Cost Engineering Capability Initiative

- Cost Engineering Capability Initiative chartered to:
  - Strengthen Chevron's internal capabilities in Cost Engineering
  - Reduce Chevron's dependency on contractors
- The initiative was chartered to make a step-change that would build, improve, and sustain Chevron's Cost Engineering capability
- Standardization of Cost Engineering terminology and work processes to provide:
  - More consistency in Cost Engineering from project to project
  - A foundation for Cost Engineering intellectual property and for training new personnel
  - A basis for continuous improvement

# Alignment with Enterprise Strategies

The Cost Engineering Capability Initiative closely aligned with Chevron's enterprise strategies

- **People** "Invest in people to strengthen organizational capability and develop a talented global workforce that gets results the right way."
- **Execution** "Execute with excellence through rigorous application of our operational excellence and capital stewardship systems and disciplined cost management."
- **Growth** "Grow profitably by using our competitive advantages to maximize value from existing assets and capture new opportunities."



# Strategic Decision #1

Strategic Decision #1: Fully Leverage AACE TCM Framework



A Process for Applying the Skills and Knowledge of Cost Engineering



AACE INTERNATIONAL promoting the planning and management of cost and schedules

### Strategic Decision

- AACE TCM Framework selected as basis for Chevron's scope and definition of Cost Engineering
- Leverage TCM Framework for development of Chevron's Cost Engineering intellectual property and foundation for making improvements

### Rationale for Decision

- Allowed the initiative to move rapidly through the develop phase into the execute phase
- TCM Framework is specific to the function of Cost Engineering
- "Asset" and "Project" level definitions aligned closely with Chevron's systems and processes
- Aligns Chevron's systems to a widely accepted industry standard

# **Chevron Perspective**



## Phase Gate Approach

The initiative followed the standard phase gate work process used within Chevron for projects

- Phase Gate Approach: *Frame, Select, Develop, Execute, and Operate*
- Staffed initiative with senior level personnel with Project Management and Cost Engineering experience
- Extensive network of internal and external SMEs leveraged for input on initiative solutions
- Decision-driven process initiative reports to a defined group of decision makers who meet periodically to review and discuss the team's work and deliverables at prescribed "Phase Gates"



## Phase Gate Approach

### Select

- Extensive engagement sessions and gap assessments were held at MCP locations around the world
  - Vision for Cost Engineering in Chevron
  - Diverse group of over seventy (70) stakeholders participated
  - Performed gap assessment of current Cost Engineering performance against all work process areas as defined in the TCM Framework
- Gap assessment results were discussed with the initiative's decision review board which resulted in clear direction for the initiative team to fully develop the selected strategy



# Phase Gate Approach

### **Develop Phase**

Frame

• Developed Chevron's "Foundational" elements of Cost Engineering:

Develop

- Cost Engineering Handbook
- Cost Engineering Foundational Training
- Cost Engineering Competency Development Tools
- Cost Engineering Career Ladder
- Cost Engineering Roles and Responsibilities
- Conducted organization review
  - Recommended new Cost Engineering COE

Select

![](_page_10_Picture_11.jpeg)

## Phase Gate Approach

### **Execute Phase**

- Deployed Chevron's "Foundational" elements of Cost Engineering:
  - Cost Engineering Handbook
  - Cost Engineering Foundational Training
  - Cost Engineering Competency Development Tools
  - Cost Engineering Career Ladder
  - Cost Engineering Roles and Responsibilities
- Reorganized into a central Cost Engineering COE to support all MCP's
- Established new roles to manage the people in the Cost Engineering Function

![](_page_11_Figure_11.jpeg)

# Phase Gate Approach

### **Operate Phase**

- The new Cost Engineering COE is in full "Run Mode" now
- "Foundational" standards are deployed
- New standards (procedures, tools) are being developed and deployed
- Roles and responsibilities are better understood
- Personnel are being effectively trained
- A foundation for continuous improvement is in place
- Better career management and competency development with functional oversight and governance

![](_page_12_Figure_10.jpeg)

### Lessons Learned

### Lessons Learned Using TCM Framework

- The quality and maturity of the TCM Framework provided an excellent basis for Chevron's Cost Engineering organizational capability development
- The use of the TCM Framework jump started the development of Chevron's Cost Engineering "Foundational" elements no need to reinvent the wheel
- The TCM Framework was an effective basis for internal gap assessments for all areas of cost engineering
- The TCM Framework is aligned with Chevron's existing processes, both at the Project and Asset levels – helped develop a more integrated "Enterprise" approach to the Cost Engineering function
- The TCM Framework aligns Chevron's systems to an industry standard to improve the interface with our contractors

### Summary

### Chevron:

- Identified an opportunity to improve our Cost Engineering capability
- Executed a multi-year initiative to make a step-change improvement in our Cost Engineering capability
- Ensured that the Cost Engineering Capability Initiative aligned with Enterprise Strategies
- Made a strategic decision to leverage the AACE TCM Framework
- Rigorously followed a decision-driven, phase gate process to deliver the Cost Engineering Capability Initiative
- Successfully completed the Cost Engineering Capability Initiative and is in full "Run Mode"
- Has delivered a step-change improvement to build, improve and sustain its Cost Engineering Capability – *The Journey Continues!*

# Questions?

![](_page_15_Picture_2.jpeg)