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*Rick Land, Chief Engineer*

### **Teamwork - The Key To Successful Project Delivery**

Most of us who have been involved on Project Delivery Teams (PDT) know what our role is; it's to deliver our piece of the project, right? That is part of it, but it's not the most important part. The most important role of a Project Delivery Team member is to help the team succeed in the delivery of the project. If any one team member fails, it's likely that the team will fail unless the team picks up the slack. It is also true that even if everyone 'does their part', the team can still fail if those parts don't fit together. Just to be clear, project delivery starts with project initiation and continues until construction and post construction activities have been completed.

Everyone on a Project Delivery Team brings their individual functional role and expertise to the team and should be committed to completing their specific task. But each team member also brings more to the team when the primary focus is on helping the team succeed. It is not just about doing their functional job, it's also about watching out for each other, looking for ways to streamline, recognizing the pitfalls and obstacles, sharing what happened on previous jobs both good and bad, looking for the weak points and then helping strengthen those points.

On any PDT there are always members with varying levels of experience. For some this is their first project or their first project of significant size. For others, they've been at it for many years and have lots of project experience; they've "seen it all". If the primary focus of the individual team members is doing what it takes to help the team succeed in delivery of the project, then I would expect there to be a great deal of interaction among those team members.

Think about it. Whether you are on a team now or you will be soon, think about what you can do to help the team be effective, efficient, and successful in the delivery of the project. Maybe it's not waiting for "the input" you need from them but meeting with them ahead of time and discussing what "the input" needs to look like in order for you to be effective. Maybe it's pointing out the negative or positive things that you learned from a previous project that had a significant effect on the project's success. Maybe it's actively participating (listening) in a PDT meeting, looking for ways to provide useful input, even though your function-related topic discussion took five minutes and it took you all day to get there. Whatever it is, you, as an effective PDT member with the correct understanding of your primary role – to help the team succeed – can make the difference between team success and team failure.

Teamwork is the key to successful project delivery. It's up to you.