

Everything you wanted to know about VE but were afraid to ask.

Panellists: Jill Woller, Lucie Parrot, Terry Martin, Eric Meng, Steve Holmes, Steven Taylor, Michael Dallas

Moderator: Jim Miller, City of Calgary

Q1. What should we do in risk management when a risk probability is very small but the impact of it would be very high?

Steve H. There is a webcast on risk soon, all info given to Mushtaq Rabbi

Terry M. It is not necessary to quantify, you could just use a point system

Jill W. I would quantify with L-M-H risk and if low, send the effort elsewhere

Q2. What are the qualities or attribute for VE people (technical people)

Lucie P. at the same level of expertise, I like to pick the one with the right personality: more open, more creative, more ready to give input

Jill W. You need to get chemistry for the team and a certain seniority (minimum 10 years, 15 is better). Someone still doing design, responsive and able to produce the development of proposals. So someone with relevant experience but give them preparation on the VE job plan before the workshop.

Michael D. They should have sufficient authority to put down a proposal. They should be credible and proactive.

Steve T. It should be someone outside the jurisdiction to bring new perspective.

Terry M. It should be consultants with people from other agencies with perspective to bring to the team.

Q3. If municipalities (over 1million people) start with projects of \$10 to 15 millions, hoe should they incorporate VE savings to Design-Build or Design-Build-Operate contracts?

Jill W. I had that on bridge projects, timing is tricky. At the VE session, the contract says that the VE proposals will be included and savings shared. At the 2nd study, the benefits are split 50-50.

Steve T. Give them opportunity to provide compliant bid and alternate bid. Savings should be shared 50-50.

Steve H. Separate requirements from attributes – use FA tool to do so and pick reasonable proposal. Timing fits well with partnering.

Eric M. Study with university shows how to attribute real costs, 50-50 is an industry standard for sharing.

Lucie P. In the manufacturing sector, share could be different over a period of time.

Q4. Human factors- How do we break the ice to make people progress toward a real team?

Jill W. I channel the client agency and use their speech to diffuse the ambiance in the room. « We are all in this together »

Steve T. It depends on room size but you could go around on professional background and say something personal to each person.

Lucie P. Make sure to mention respect will always be there and you are not here to demolish the designers or their project.

Eric M. takes the time to explain why they are here and ask what are the 2-3 more important things on their mind.

Terry M. Before a study starts, someone with the VE program should speak to reduce the threatening feeling.

Michael D. If senior executive is there to set the scene, it is less threatening. Then at the end of the 1st day, it is nice to get together in a local bar to unwind.

Q5. There are a lot of new people, can you tell us the difference between VA, VE, VM...

Mushtaq Rabbi (from the public) When I speak to engineers, I call it VE, when I speak to managers, I call it VM!!!

Michael D. VM is the umbrella for all of it. VE and VE is the same thing, I tend to use VA for process oriented projects and VE for engineering projects.

Lucie P. It depends who you are talking to, some more human projects don't like to be "engineered" and vice versa

Michael D. I call it a Value Study!

Steve H. I prefer VA because it includes more people.

Eric M. SAVE wants to get rid of the word engineers in their name and become "The Value Society".

Dave Wilson (from the public) At SAVE, we use VE because the term is legislated, so it won't go away for a while.

Anna Bremmer (from the public) Yes but there are lots of changes in legislation in the US...

Steve H. Call it anything but talk about the process!

Michael D. Lots of people out there call what they do VE but don't do it right.

Steve H. Yes, lots of firms say they do VE but know nothing about it!

Jim Miller. The city asks that the consultant be a CVS to prevent that.

Michael D. In Europe, it's called PVM and they are just as competent.

Jim Miller. It's easier to call it VA because it's not an engineering service, which is more complicated to procure.

Lucie P. The liability associated to engineering services is much bigger and there is a big premium to pay. It's a pain, we are still trying to convince insurance companies that we are not a risk, au contraire.

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