

Customer Case Study

Institute of Marine Research

Better financial control of research activities and funding

“With Deltek Maconomy we now have the ability to easily share funding between several research projects and track how our funding is used.”

» Åse Pedersen, head of the vendor selection team



With the implementation of Deltek’s Maconomy solution, the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research now reaches for the ideal support for its project-oriented organizational structure. Among other things, the new solution allows the Institute to better utilize its funding and control research costs.

In 2003, the Institute’s setup was changed to a more level and flexible organizational structure to create an integrated, scientifically focused organization with short lines of communication. Nineteen research groups were established each with their own core competence area.

To support the new organizational structure of 19 cost centers, which loan resources from each other and use shared facilities, the Institute began to look for a new system to support the administrative management of its research activities. The Institute wanted to be able to better prioritize and coordinate its activities and ensure maximum utilization of its funding.

The key requirements for a new management system were:

- The true cost of research projects could be tracked i.e. shared facilities, travel, support, and internal and external research time
- Project cost and status would always be updated without weeks of delay

- The funding of contracts – often with several sponsors for one project – could be handled effectively
- Web access for remote locations
- Information and functionality should be role-based
- User-friendly, safe integration to the Institute’s financial system

Full support for research projects

The institute decided not to make a detailed list of specifications, but instead provided possible system suppliers with an outline of the Institute’s strategic goals as well as descriptions of the types of research projects, for which support was needed.

Deltek was chosen as supplier because of its research solution’s excellent ability to handle the entire project life cycle and unique support of the research environment. “Deltek clearly has a strong focus on the research industry because the solution supports multiple funding sources for the same project as well as cost allocation for shared facilities and services,” says Åse Pedersen, head of the vendor selection team. She continues, “With Deltek’s solution Maconomy, we knew that not only could we get our needs met now but also that we could extend the solution into other areas later on.”

“We have streamlined our way of managing projects so that today it is much easier to compare the progress and performance of our research activities. In time, this will reduce our administrative burden even further.”

» Åse Pedersen, head of the vendor selection team

Fast implementation

The Institute of Marine Research signed the contract with Deltek in December 2003, started implementation in January, and went live in April 2004. “We were a small internal team who made the necessary decisions based on the recommendations from Deltek and the overall objectives of the initiative. This resulted in a short and smooth implementation process without unpleasant surprises,” says administrative system manager Jan Kåre Nesodden, who was responsible for the implementation.

Today, Nesodden spends just 20% of his time administering the Deltek Maconomy system, developing additional reports and providing advice to the 14 project assistants who are also Maconomy super users.

Real time project cost

With easy access to time submission even from remote locations and the push of alerts for overdue time sheets, project costs are updated on a weekly basis with very few employees missing submissions. Pedersen comments, “When you walk around in the organization, you can really see how pleased our project managers are that they are able to look at real-time costs.” Harald Gjørseter, senior project manager and group manager adds, “Having access to total budget, updated cost-to-date and remaining budget on projects are a huge improvement compared to our previous setup where we were always at least one month behind on cost. The new system allows us to juggle resources around and helps us avoid budget overruns.”

Efficiency and quality assurance

The Institute uses project templates to establish key information and budget for research projects. This reduces the administrative burden and provides quality assurance of the project initiation. With over 750 active projects per year, a smooth process makes a difference.

“Thanks to the new user interface of our Deltek Maconomy system, we have been able to transfer the responsibility for creating projects, approving time sheets and supplier invoices directly to our project managers,” says Pedersen and continues, “We have streamlined our way of managing projects so that today it is much easier to compare the progress and performance of our research activities. In time, this will reduce our administrative burden even further.”

Simplified funding management

As a non-profit organization, the Institute of Marine Research must manage its funds carefully since only five percent of the budget can be transferred to the following year. About half of the funding comes from the Ministry of Fisheries while the rest is from private and other public sources. Like many other research organizations, funding is a complex affair at the Institute. Funding comes in the form of direct grants or as allocated manpower from other government institutions, universities or private companies. The external parties sometimes work as suppliers and other times in partnership with the Institute. Regardless of the setup, the changing constellations add to the complexity of managing research projects and tracking progress. The task of administering over 300 funding contracts annually has become significantly easier. “With Deltek Maconomy we now have the ability to easily share funding between several research projects and track how our funding is used,” says Pedersen.

“With online access to project progress, deviation reports, group performance, capacity overview and funding consumption, we now have the ideal foundation for better decision making for our senior management team and also for group managers and project managers.”

» Åse Pedersen, head of the vendor selection team

Better basis for decision-making

With Maconomy, the Institute now has numerous reporting and analysis options. Among them, over 20 portal reports for quick access to the figures that matter plus the ability to drill into the details. “With online access to project progress, deviation reports, group performance, capacity overview and funding consumption, we now have the ideal foundation for better decision making for our senior management team and also for group managers and project managers,” says Pedersen.

Thoughts for the future

The Institute of Marine Research chose Deltek because of the breadth of its research solution and plans to use other areas of the solution in the future. “We know that we can improve the utilization of our resources even further with a more structured approach to resource planning. In the future, we expect to implement Deltek’s resource planning support in the groups with resources that tend to be used in lots of other groups,” concludes Pedersen.

About The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research

Overview: The Institute of Marine Research, an agency of the Ministry of Fisheries in Norway, does research on marine ecology, marine resources, the marine environment, costal zones and aquaculture.

With 600 employees, it is among the largest institutes in the world within its field. The institute is headquartered in Bergen but it has research stations at four other locations in Norway. The institute also operates several vessels, laboratories and data centers as shared facilities for its research groups.

www.imr.no

The Deltek Advantage

The key success factors for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research

- Ability to trace how funds are used
- Less time spent on administering funding contracts
- Ability to better prioritize research projects
- Alignment of project management procedure and better quality assurance
- Ability to decentralize approval activities to project managers
- Ability to prevent research activities from running over budget
- More ownership of project cost among project managers
- Faster management reporting

Solutions: Deltek Maconomy

World Headquarters:

United States

13880 Dulles Corner Ln
Herndon, VA 20171
800.456.2009

**Regional
Headquarters:**

United Kingdom

1 Warwick Row
London
SW1E 5ER
+44 (0) 20 7518-5010

Denmark

Vordingborggade 18-22
DK - 2100 Copenhagen Ø
+45 35 27 79 00

Australia

6th floor
182 Victoria Square
Adelaide
South Australia 5000
+61 8 8112 1200

deltek.com
info@deltek.com

Deltek (Nasdaq: PROJ) is the leading global provider of enterprise software and information solutions for professional services firms, government contractors, and government agencies. For decades, we have delivered actionable insight that empowers our customers to unlock their business potential. Over 14,000 organizations and 1.8 million users in approximately 80 countries around the world rely on Deltek to research and identify opportunities, win new business, optimize resources, streamline operations, and deliver more profitable projects. Deltek – Know more. Do more.®

deltek.com