

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)



“It’s rare to find a solution that offers so many day-to-day benefits. From resource planning to cost transparency, (Cobra) helps make us more efficient than ever.”

- Anita Zenger
Project Controls Manager
LLNL

Deltek Cobra® and Deltek wInsight® Combine to Create Greater Project Cost Transparency for National Security Laboratory

THE CHALLENGE

As a leading national security laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is focused on meeting national security needs by advancing nuclear science and technology. Originally established at the height of the Cold War to study nuclear weapons technology, LLNL’s mission today is to advance and apply science and technology to ensure the safety, security, and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent; reduce or counter threats to national and global security; enhance the energy and environmental security of the nation; and strengthen the nation’s economic competitiveness.

However, the lab faced a growing challenge – an outdated, inefficient cost processing system. “It was becoming more and more difficult to share cost and resource data across the organization,” reported Anita Zenger, Project Controls Manager. “We spent a lot of time moving data from one system to another, and lacked the capability to efficiently manage planned, earned, and actuals.”

The lab needed a cost processing solution that could deliver better transparency, efficiency, and flexibility.

THE SOLUTION

A trade study by LLNL led to a closer look at a wide variety of cost processors. Once the qualifying questions narrowed the list, LLNL realized that a combination of Deltek Cobra and Deltek wInsight provided the most robust, flexible solution. Previous positive experience with Cobra made the decision even easier and LLNL ultimately chose Deltek. Implemented by Deltek Consulting Services, the pilot system was up and operational in three months.

Powerful and easy to use, Deltek Cobra helps organizations like LLNL manage project costs, measure earned value, and analyze budgets, actuals, and forecasts with an intuitive interface, helpful wizards and government compliant reporting. Cobra also helps businesses comply with rigorous government standards.

Deltek wInsight™ is the de facto standard for analyzing, sharing, and reporting earned value management data. wInsight’s standard set of reports provide early warning indicators to quickly identify variances in project performance, enabling organizations to proactively identify potential problems before they occur. The wInsight solution is designed to give an easy to understand, program-level view to technical, schedule and financial professionals.

Contact Deltek

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Deltek® (Nasdaq: PROJ) is the leading provider of enterprise applications software and solutions designed specifically for project-focused businesses. For more than two decades, our software applications have enabled organizations to automate mission-critical business processes around the engagement, execution and delivery of projects. More than 12,000 customers worldwide rely on Deltek to measure business results, optimize performance, streamline operations and win new business.

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"Not only did that combination of products meet our immediate needs," said Zenger, "it put us in a good position for growth, as well." In a short time, the successful pilot program turned into an institution-wide rollout.

THE BENEFIT

The benefits of the Cobra/wInsight combination were immediate and impressive. "On construction projects alone," Zenger continued, "the time it took to calculate earned value was reduced by 90%."

In addition to increasing efficiency and reducing the time spent on manual calculations and reporting, the Deltek solution also made establishing baselines and leveraging historical data much easier. The wInsight web dashboard made data accessible to staff members anywhere in the NNSA/DOE complex.

With Cobra and wInsight, re-work was minimized, and data was accurate and consistent, no matter where project account managers accessed it from. Resource management was simplified as well, and enabled the lab to shift from resource-based budgeting to scope-based budgeting. All in all, the combination led to greater cost transparency for the entire organization.

"We can create better reports, more accurate comparisons, push data out as needed. We've never been more efficient or transparent," Zenger concluded.

LLNL AT A GLANCE

Company Name: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is managed by Lawrence Livermore National Security (LLNS) for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration

Headquarters: Livermore, CA

Primary Business: LLNL is a nearly 60-year-old award-winning United States national security laboratory developing unique nuclear science and engineering capabilities that are applied to a broad set of national challenges.

Industry: National Security R&D Laboratory

Deltek Products: Deltek Enterprise Project Management Family

URL: www.llnl.gov

THE DELTEK ADVANTAGE

The implementation of Deltek Cobra and Deltek wInsight enabled LLNL to:

- Increase overall efficiency
- Improve transparency of staff utilization, project costs, and historical data
- Reduce time spent calculating earned value by 90%
- Eliminate manual import/export solutions across separate applications
- Reduce the time spent on manual calculations, reporting, and re-work