



**Orbital Sciences Corporation
Launch Systems Group**

Dulles, Va.

www.orbital.com

Industry:

Aerospace and Defense

Annual Revenue:

\$1.5 billion

Employees:

3,400

Products & Services:

Oracle Primavera Project
Planner (P3)

Oracle Partner:

Innovative Management
Solutions (IMS)

www.ims-web.com

About Orbital Sciences Corporation

Orbital Sciences maintains that what goes up doesn't have to come down -- at least not for a long time. The company makes low-Earth-orbit satellites and other spacecraft for communications, science and technology research, and national security purposes. Orbital Sciences also manufactures satellite launch vehicles, as well as interceptors (to stop missile attacks) and target launch vehicles that test missile defense systems. Its Advanced Space Programs division develops and supports human space flight, space exploration, and launch systems and satellites primarily used for national security programs. The US government and its contractors account for about 75% of the company's sales.

The Taurus Launch Vehicle program experienced rapid growth and the scheduling and management systems were outdated and faltering. IMS was called in to evaluate the processes for tracking and distributing information on schedules, cost, and performance of the program. The Taurus is a four-stage, ground-launched, solid-propellant rocket designed to provide an innovative, flexible, and cost effective approach for placing substantial military and commercial payloads into a variety of low-earth, geosynchronous transfer and interplanetary orbits.

Business Challenge

Respond quickly with evaluations and recommendations for innovative and practical solutions to outdated and inefficient project management processes and practices, and then upon review and validation with management, implement them. Also, analyze and maintain current program schedules to regain program visibility.

Solution

Implement Oracle's Primavera P3 software and develop a detailed schedule to manage the project. Also, develop relational database applications for tracking detail production activities that tie to the mission schedules. This application was developed in Visual Basic with reporting in Microsoft Access. Develop launch vehicle programs web site, which is maintained on Orbital's corporate network for security reasons, but is accessible from anywhere in the world.

Impact

Increased visibility in the program was achieved allowing for better decision making. IMS's solution now enables program personnel to review program management information such as graphical Gantt charts (critical path, program schedule, program highlights, etc.), cost reports, procedures, and more.