

Here is an illustrative sample, perhaps not perfect, but it will give you an assortment of ideas to build on.

First step is to always read and carefully follow the assignment instructions and the Assignment Specifications build an outline with a table of contents, go back to the assignment instructions and make sure you are meeting the requirements, read the Assignment Specifications again and make sure you understand all components and that you are meeting them.

Unit 3 Assignment: Case Analysis

You will review a case and research the use of programs and portfolios with projects and provide your recommended course of action.

Your company, Space Systems Technologies (SST), has the mission of assembling commercial and military launch vehicles. SST does no fabrication, it simply provides customers specialized assembly expertise, brings the prefabricated parts of the expendable launch vehicle together, and through an assembly process delivers a completed launch vehicle to the launch facility to be mated with the propulsion system prior to launch. SST Corporation assembles many different launch vehicles for various customers who design and launch the cargo launch (payload rockets) vehicles but lack the necessary facilities and expertise in rocket assembly.

SST is submitting a proposal in response to the Ansari X-Prize Competition as a sub-contractor to Scaled Composites. SST will assemble the different competitor rockets and ship to Scaled Composites who will conduct engine mating, launch, and test data collection.

Your vice president for engineering has to decide whether to incorporate these X-Prize rocket assembly projects into the existing program of launch vehicle assembly or, have a separate program or, consolidate the effort into a project portfolio. You have been asked to research the use of programs and portfolios with projects and provide your recommended course of action. Consider the advantages/disadvantages of:

- Incorporating the X-Prize vehicles into the existing program of launch vehicle assembly
- Establishing the X-Prize vehicles into a standalone program or,
- Establishing a portfolio of X-Prize vehicles

Your paper will provide a short understanding of the situation and problem as it pertains to the mission of Space Systems Technologies, an analysis of each of the options with cited references, a synthesized recommended course of action, and the evaluation of that conclusion from a source reference not already used in your analysis of the problem.

Please go to the X-Prize website for further information on the X-Prize Competition. Be sure to focus only on the cargo launch (payload rockets) vehicles that are part of this competition.

Possible Websites:

The assignment requires you to conduct research in order to glean insights in reference to the case. Possible websites that can assist you are below:

<http://www.googlelunarxprize.org/> and this website explains what X-Prize is
<http://space.xprize.org/>

Ansari X Prize http://www.scaled.com/projects/tierone_test_logs/34

X-Prize Winner <http://www.scaled.com/projects/tierone/>

<http://www.scaled.com/projects/tierone/aircraft>

Directions for submitting your paper on your recommended course of action to your VP on how to group the proposed rocket assembly projects.

The Assignment essentially requires you to evaluate three options and make a recommendation to your VP for the most preferred alternative. In completing the Assignment, place emphasis “solely” on the cargo launch (payload rockets) vehicles. Please also recall the following:

- Ansari X-Prize is the vehicle launch competition. The winner receives \$10M.
- Space Systems Technologies (SST) assembles launch rocket vehicles and is submitting a proposal to do so.
- SST will be a sub-contractor to Scaled Composites.

Your Assignment should include an evaluation of three options. Your evaluation must include the advantage and disadvantage of the following three options. They are:

- Incorporating the X-Prize vehicles into the existing program of launch vehicle assembly
- Establishing the X-Prize vehicles into a standalone program or,
- Establishing a portfolio of X-Prize vehicles

Criteria for the Assignment

- You should begin your Assignment with an Executive Summary of the situation.
- You should conclude your discussion with the final selected recommendation based on the recommendations provided and the next course of action that should be taken based on the recommendation.
- Include references to validate key points, factual claims and counter arguments.
- Map organizational objectives, goals, and strategies to the project management outcomes.

Components

- APA information presented as a Cover page (please see sample Unit 3 Assignment)
- Table of contents
- Introduction in the form of an executive summary
- Body of the focus paper (use Headings to organize).
- Conclusion stated as your recommended solutions or improvements in terms of project management techniques and tools.
- Reference page, a minimum of 3 scholarly journal or textbook Source references cited and credited according to APA format using a minimum of 6 intext citations
- The paper should be focused and to the point, containing between 600 and 800 words from the Executive Summary to the end of your Conclusion.

To submit your paper, go to the **Dropbox** and click on the **Unit 3: Assignment** link and follow the instructions. Make sure that you save a copy of the files you submit.

Be sure to address the essential aspects of the case, and discuss whether to incorporate these X-Prize rocket assembly projects into the existing program of launch vehicle assembly or, have a separate program or, consolidate the effort into a project portfolio.

Your recommended course of should consider the advantages/disadvantages of Incorporating the X-Prize vehicles into the existing program of launch vehicle assembly, establishing the X-Prize vehicles into a standalone program or, establishing a portfolio of X-Prize vehicles.

Include your understanding of the situation and problem as it pertains to the mission of Space Systems Technologies, an analysis of each of the options with cited references, a synthesized recommended course of action, and the evaluation of that conclusion **from a source reference not already used in your analysis of the problem.**

Objective of this Assignment is an analysis of your selected project with recommended courses of action to problems or issues you found, and to present the recommended courses of action-- **to your VP on how to group the proposed rocket assembly projects.**

Unit 3 Ansari X-Prize Program Proposal

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DATE, 2015

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Executive Summary

Space System Technologies (SST) has a valuable strategy and superior ability to assemble and provide organizations with completed launch vehicles, creates an added business value with the potential to build strong partnerships within the aerospace industry. Scale Composites, founded by Burt Rutan, focuses their business strategy on creating aerodynamic manned aircrafts further advancing space exploration [REDACTED]

Project Overview

Ansari X-Prize competition encompasses the ingenuity and experimental drive to create unimaginable visions into reality [REDACTED]

Incorporation into Existing SST Launch Vehicle Program

By incorporating the X-Prize program into an existing SST rocket assembly program allows existing processes to be utilize eliminating the need for new operational development in meeting the client's expectations. However, alignment of the X-Prize program requirements may [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Merging the program into an existing program will alleviate the need for additional resources. Knowledgeable employees are costly valuable assets; therefore, utilizing existing personnel creates a cost savings (Resch, 2011). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Creation of New SST Launch Vehicle Program

Establishing a new program can utilize the existing SST assembly processes; however [REDACTED]

A new program approach will require new resources which could lead to increased costs for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it is critical to investigate the value metrics the measure the projected outcomes for success (Resch, 2011).

Creation of SST Launch Vehicle Portfolio Program

SST's creation of a portfolio program will provide an interdependent or directly-related process (Project Management Institute, 2013). SST's strategic goals [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The benefits can be accurately measured through building a solid business case that justifies the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Recommendation and Course of Action

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The risk and financial assessments, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Project Management Institute, 2014). To develop the program effectively, it will require [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conclusion

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] business value.

References

About us. (2014). Scaled.com. Retrieved from <http://www.scaled.com/about/>

Ansari X prize. (2014). Xprize.org. Retrieved from <http://space.xprize.org/ansari-x-prize>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Project Management Institute. (2013). *A guide to project management body of knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)* (5th ed.). Newtown Square, PA: Project Management Institute.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Resch, M. (2011). *Strategic project management transformation: Delivering maximum ROI & sustainable business value*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: J. Ross Publishing, Inc.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

