

IPRO 342 Project Plan

Spring 2009

Development of a Real Time Information System

Advisor: William Mauer

Abstract/Objective -

Midwest Steel & Services, a growing company, needs assistance in expanding its business software and/or creating the means to provide a better real-time information. Improved cost controls, purchasing capabilities and job tracking are among the specific issues the company faces. Accessing and sharing the information emanating from these activities will enable the companies' management practices to make better decisions and significantly contribute to business growth.

The company's present software and internal processes are not sufficient to meet their current and future business needs. The company has asked for the assistance of IPRO 342 to improve this issue. The IPRO team will review the present situation and try to assess it. This assessment will come from both a systems review as well as interviews of Midwest Steel staff. We will periodically travel to the company to gather information about them and present our findings.

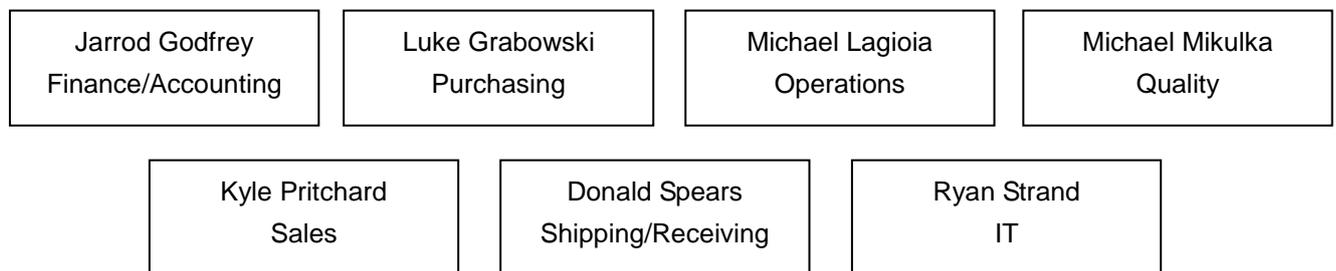
Methodology -

- Problem
 - The goal of this IPRO is to identify the "needs" of Midwest Steel in order to enhance the efficiency of their business model.
- Solution
 - In order to address the "needs" of Midwest Steel, teams members will meet with employees and assess the accuracy, practice and deficiencies of their business model. When enough information has been gathered to enhance the productivity of their business, deployment of our product will begin.
 - Initial consulting will be performed with the company which will include the following questions:
 1. Can you walk us through the process of a standard order from receiving the order to delivering the product to the customer?
 2. How many jobs/orders do you perform per year and what is the average turn-around time.
 3. How is each individual order tracked?
 4. How is inventory tracked?
 5. How are your departments structured and how do they communicate?
 6. How many employees do you have and how are the allocated?
 7. What is your customer base and how do you plan to expand on it?

8. What problems would you like our IPRO to focus on?

Based on the response to these initial questions, our consulting phase will include follow up questions which will help us ascertain the specific deficiencies and problems of the company's business model.

In order to deliver our product to Midwest Steel in a productive and organized manner, we have decided to break down the IPRO team so that each team member will take ownership of a specific department of the company:



Each team member will conduct research and use their available resources to find a more effective method for each department. Resources can include employees from Midwest Steel, our advisor, and online documentation.

Once the sufficient amount of research has been conducted we will consolidate our ideas and develop an integrated product that our sponsor can use to be more efficient with their business.

- Documentation
 - Process and Results will be documented through team notes and reports including:
 - Meeting minutes from team and sub-groups
 - Presentations from team members at team meetings
 - Electrical communication from Email, Files and Discussion Board on iGroups.
 - IPRO deliverables.
 - Documentations will be submitted to iGroups system by the scheduled deadlines.

- IPRO Deliverables
 - The team will coordinate the IPRO deliverables and IPRO day tasks.
 - Each member will be assigned to complete part of each deliverables by specific deadlines based on their skills and consent of the entire team.
 - The team will schedule special time for compiling and documenting.
 - The team will schedule special session for modifying draft with advisors.

Semester Budget

Item	Quantity	Price
Photocopying	500 copies	\$50.00
Paper		\$50.00
Mailing		\$20.00
Transportation		\$30.00
Team Building		\$70.00
Visa Gift Card for the survey	1	\$100.00
Pens		\$30.00
Survey fund		\$150.00
TOTAL		\$500.00

Team Organization

- Designation of roles

Financing/Accounting
Purchasing
Operations
Quality
Sales
Shipping and Receiving
Information Technology

Team at glance- Advisor: William Mauer

- Jarrod Godfrey, 4th year Computer Science
- Luke Grabowski, 3rd year Mechanical Engineering
- Michael Lagioia, 4th year Information Technology and Management
- Michael Mikulka, 4th year Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Kyle Pritchard, 4th year Computer Science
- Donald Spears, 4th year Computer Science
- Ryan Strand, 4th year Computer Engineering