



Project Controls Symposium, Houston 2018: Epigrammatic Abstract

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It was a pleasure to attend the 2018 Project Controls Symposium hosted by the University of Houston.

Listening to the various presentations by the industry's leaders, it was evident that the role of Project Controls is changing rapidly by shedding the traditional roles it held over the last few decades in order to evolve and continue contributing to interdepartmental synergy.

Below is a brief synopsis of the broadest concepts that seemed as the most prevalent for the immediate future:

- The focus of Project Controls appears to be moving steadily away from **reporting** and closer to **predicting** in an effort to discourage excessive attention to the past and encourage the proactive examination of a project's future
- Project Controls professionals having been burdened with **exhaustive reporting** thus truncating the time allotted to actual **analysis**. Noteworthy, was the simile made of this unproductive behavior being as effective as driving a car forward while looking at the rear-view mirror
- Many professions within the industry that simply carry the role of collecting and processing data will become obsolete as the **automation** of these tasks is becoming increasingly widespread
- **Data Analytics** will be an essential tool for Project Controls professionals as the massive amounts of data that are generated and collected, need to be logically analyzed and interpreted in order to harvest meaningful deductions
- Clients are increasingly interested in working with Contractors that utilize **AWP** as the foundation of their Project Delivery System
- **Earned Value** and **Performance Factors** are too easily distorted or manipulated, making it necessary to shift the focus of Project Controls away from obsessively monitoring such parameters and moving it closer to the concept of **Milestone Attainment** where meeting essential completion dates becomes the method of measuring performance

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