



Customer Case Study

Acumen Risk
Acumen Fuse
Acumen 360

“Compared to our old processes, Acumen is easier, faster, and has deeper schedule analytics”

» **Stacy Abbott,**
Program Scheduling
Manager,
Orbital ATK



Orbital ATK

Deltek Acumen helps drive on-time and early delivery to customers

As a global leader in aerospace and defense technologies, Orbital ATK designs, builds and delivers space, defense and aviation-related systems to customers around the world both as a prime contractor and as a merchant supplier.

The Challenge

Prior to implementing Deltek Acumen, Orbital ATK’s scheduling team struggled to complete schedule quality and risk assessments due to their time consuming nature. They were also unable to compare multiple project schedules at once, and had difficulty quickly viewing data and easily analyzing the results. Orbital ATK needed to find a way to improve the quality of its schedules to help drive on-time or early deliveries to its customers.

The Solution

Orbital ATK wanted a solution that was easy to use and seamlessly integrated with its current systems. After reviewing several options and utilizing free trials, Orbital ATK turned to the Deltek Acumen Suite to help solve its scheduling challenges thanks to its proven track record, ability to integrate with existing tools and highly customizable reporting features.

The Benefits

Since implementing Deltek Acumen, Orbital ATK has experienced a range of benefits—from significant time savings in generating reports to deeper analytics and improved schedule quality.

Deeper Schedule Analytics & Higher Quality Schedules

With Deltek Acumen, it is now much easier and faster for the Orbital ATK scheduling team to provide deeper analytics.

The same analysis that would have taken between four and eight hours to complete with legacy tools, depending on the project complexity, can now be done in mere minutes.

Additionally, reports can be sliced and diced in a variety of ways to provide better and more valuable insights to its users.

Deltek Acumen provides Orbital ATK with better quality schedules, resulting in more on-time or early deliveries – a win-win for the company and its customers. Deltek Acumen allows users to easily view schedule history and trends and compare actual data to baseline data. For example, if a Control Account Manager (CAM) tells the scheduler he/she is going to complete five activities and he/she completed ten, the scheduler can easily confirm the discrepancy with the click of a button. Additionally, standardization is improved with Deltek Acumen. Performance can be compared against the baseline plan, and reusable templates can be set up and used by all schedulers. Reporting capabilities also tie directly to data analysis, and any background data can be easily exported into Excel for further analysis and sharing across the enterprise.

The Key Features Driving Improved Schedule Quality



• **Schedule Diagnostics:** Through Acumen Fuse, Orbital ATK can provide diagnostics across multiple projects and platforms for a true view into program performance. Fuse also provides the team with the ability to create custom metrics, as well as all of the analysis and benchmarking necessary to comply with the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) 14 Point Assessment.



• **Schedule Acceleration:** Orbital ATK leverages Acumen 360 to generate schedule scenarios in real time, allowing the team to visualize acceleration opportunities, or even threats of delay, and immediately see the impact.



• **Schedule Risk Assessment:** With Acumen Risk, the scheduling team can account for and proactively reduce risk exposure to develop an accurate forecast they can rely on.

Additionally, Orbital ATK takes advantage of Acumen's:

- Logic Trace and Smart Gantt for critical paths
- Logic Sensitivity and Schedule Cleanser
- Forensics to easily compare two or more schedules at the same time

A Look to the Future

Orbital ATK started off with two licenses and within a few short months decided to purchase the full Acumen Suite for their entire team. The scheduling team is now actively working to develop best practices and standards for all of their schedulers, as well as create customized dashboards with actionable items and data that can be used by program managers and CAMs.

According to Stacy Abbott, program scheduling manager, "As we learn more, Acumen is only going to become even more valuable to our team. It's fast, it's easy to use and I'm happy we have it."

About Orbital ATK

As a global leader in aerospace and defense technologies, Orbital ATK designs, builds and delivers space, defense and aviation-related systems to customers around the world both as a prime contractor and as a merchant supplier. Orbital ATK's main products include launch vehicles and related propulsion systems; satellites and associated components and services; composite aerospace structures; tactical missiles, subsystems and defense electronics; and precision weapons, armament systems and ammunition. Headquartered in Dulles, Virginia, Orbital ATK employs approximately 12,000 people in 18 states across the U.S. and several international locations.

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