

EVM EUROPE 2012 CONFERENCE AND PLANS FOR 2013

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INTRODUCTION

As readers of the 4th edition 2012, Measurable News would be aware from the article “Top Ten Observations for EVM Europe 2012” by the now current Vice President Communications, Mark Phillips, the EVM Europe 2012 Conference held at the University of Twente in the Netherlands was a small but highly successful conference. The EVM Europe Conferences continue to succeed and develop in spite of the ongoing less than favourable economic circumstances in Europe. This reflects the extraordinary commitment of a growing group of Europeans dedicated to advancing EVM (and associated techniques) research and practice in Europe and beyond.

EVM Europe 2012 was also notable for the number of Americans who attended, actively participated and were genuinely impressed by the depth of knowledge and dedication of the Europeans (and others from beyond Europe) to advancing the cause of EVM adoption. The other favourable comments on EVM in Europe compared with “EVM USA style” included the:

- Lack of a regulatory mandate for EVM in Europe. This results in much more adaptive (and interesting) approaches taken with implementing an EVMS. These approaches are focused on minimising overhead while achieving the business benefits of the method in improving project and portfolio performance outcomes;
- Focus in Europe on using EVM as the means of designing and achieving more integrated project planning and control systems within commercial business environments, rather than just focusing on the mechanics of EVM itself; and
- Interest and dedication of the EVM/project controls research community in Europe which results in university students presenting their research findings at these conferences. Direct collaboration between researchers and practitioners is also promoted which achieves the unique EVM Europe mission statement of “Where Research Meets Practice”

The EVM Europe Association decided that EVM Europe Conference 5 will return to the University of Ghent, in Belgium and EVM Europe Conference 6 will likely return to the Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland in 2014. The reason for this “return to the heartland” is to be better able to cope with the consequences of the European financial crisis with a future decision on whether to recommence holding Conferences in different locations around Europe.

EVM EUROPE 2013

The EVM 5 Europe Conference is being held on the 3rd – 4th December 2013 (avoiding Thanksgiving in the USA) at the historic Het Pand Convention Centre at the University of Ghent, Belgium. Further details on the Conference and the facility (which was originally a 13th century Dominican monastery located in the heart of the city on the banks of the river Leie) is available from www.evm-europe-eu.

This conference is planned by the EVM Europe Association to be a particularly auspicious occasion for many reasons including recognition of the:

- 5th anniversary of the EVM Europe initiative which commenced in 2009;
- First year in execution phase for the €1 million European Project Controls/EVM Research project which is under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Mario Vanhoucke of Ghent University and Vlerick Business School.
- It is planned that up to 13 students from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Ghent University (5 PhD's and 8 Masters students) will present summaries of their initial research findings at the Conference; and
- Recognition of the 10th anniversary of Earned Schedule with the publication of Walt Lipke's seminal paper “Schedule is Different” in the Measurable News in 2003. Interest in Walt's work in Europe has been a significant contributing factor which resulted in the

bringing together and collaboration between EVM practitioners in Europe, formation of the EVM Europe Association and follow-on initiatives including the successful €1 million European Project Controls/EVM Research project.

EVM Europe 2013 has much to offer researchers, practitioners and all interested in learning about innovative techniques for implementing EVM and advancing the uptake of the method globally. The Conference will undoubtedly feature Belgian chocolates and conclude in uniquely Belgian fashion with a beer tasting session.

EVM Europe Website:
www.evm-europe.eu




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