

Press Release: *asapm* Releases New Generation Standard for Organizational PM Assessment

Colorado Springs, CO – April 5, 2010. *asapm* Releases New Generation Standard for Organizational PM Assessment. *asapm*, the American Society for the Advancement of Project Management, is pleased to announce the release of the *asapm* Performance Rated Organization (*aPRO*TM) standard. The *aPRO* standard offers a new-generation, results-oriented approach, to provide a complete picture of organizational performance competence in project and program management (pm).

The *aPRO* standard was published as an exposure draft in December 2009, and received hundreds of comments from around the world. The standard and its companion Assessor Guide offer organizations a path to certification for their performance in project management. “*aPRO* delivers a fresh, new, perhaps even radical approach, to assessing the factors that lead to pm performance in organizations,” said *asapm* president Stacy Goff. “Organizations now have an affordable new alternative for improving their project and program management results, while also differentiating themselves through certification.”

Organizations of all sizes will use the *aPRO* standard to differentiate themselves from their competition, and improve pm performance. They can benefit from the *aPRO* standard in two ways: They can download and use the standard for an informal self-assessment, or they can retain a Recognized Assessor (RA) for an external perspective. The use of a Recognized Assessor qualifies the organization for certification as an *asapm* Performance Rated Organization.

The Recognized Assessor program creates a turnkey market offering for consultancies qualified to conduct the assessments. Interested assessors participate in a formal training program offered by the *aPRO* team, where they learn specific methods for conducting the unique threshold performance assessment. The *aPRO* team anticipates that organization-internal assessors will also be interested in the training, and combinations of internal and external assessors will be yet another option. The *aPRO* website, at <http://apro.asapm.org> lists the contact information for current Recognized Assessors, and *asapm* plans to offer a Recognized Assessor training in June 2010.

The *aPRO* standard is openly available under a Creative Commons copy left agreement, and the Assessor Guide is available to those who successfully complete the Recognized Assessor training. The Assessor Guide provides insights into planning an assessment, identifying the most-important roles to interview to assure a valid assessment, sample questions to ask, and evidence of performance to request, to verify each performance criteria. *asapm* will also license the Assessor Guide for organizations' internal use; contact aPRO.Interest@asapm.org or visit the *aPRO* website for pricing information.

Tim Jaques, *asapm* Director of Standards, summed it up: “The RA program allows organizations of all sizes to differentiate themselves with a ready-made service offering that their customers will love.” Organization Executives who are interested in an *aPRO* Assessment can contact the *aPRO* Assessments Manager, at aPRO.Me@asapm.org. Consultants who are familiar with organizational assessment, and who are interested in becoming Recognized Assessors can learn more at the *aPRO* website, or by contacting the *aPRO* Recognized Assessor Coordinator, at aPRO.RA@asapm.org.

About *asapm*

asapm, the American Society for the Advancement of Project Management, is a not-for-profit professional society dedicated to advancing the practice of project and program management in the United States. *asapm* is the USA Member Association of IPMA, the International Project Management Association. Working through its members, with IPMA, and with other professional associations around the world, *asapm* continues to provide leadership in improving project and program management performance competence throughout the USA and beyond. See www.asapm.org for more information.

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