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PMI Opens 2009 Call for Research Proposals

PMI is pleased to announce its 2009 Request for Proposals for 2010 research funding. In past years, PMI created and posted a list of preferred topic areas compiled from PMI surveys, member input, and other sources on which we invited proposals. This year the Academic Resource Manager in conjunction with the Research Member Advisory Group (RMAG) solicits research ***proposals on any topic related to project, program, or portfolio management.***

Past programmatic areas have been wide ranging addressing the behavioral, operational, organizational, and cultural dimensions of project management, and its various knowledge areas and processes. Topics on which research was solicited include, among others, the role of the executive sponsor, the impact of complexity theory on project management, stress in organizational roles, the concept stage of project management, organizational change, portfolio management, high innovation projects, and cross-cultural practices. As a relatively young field of academic inquiry and a newly formalized field of professional practice, project management is ripe for academic research that will advance knowledge and inform practice. Little research exists on many subjects including ethics and governance, project management as a career choice, portfolio prioritization, evidence-based standards development, the role of project management in non-profit organizations, NGOs, the health care industry, and in the research enterprise itself. The current global financial crisis also offers an interesting and timely context in which to explore the use and utility of project management, and the failure of projects—an oft quoted statistic—also presents an opportunity for essential learning. Likewise, PMI has an interest in examining the role of project management in global sustainability and we encourage thoughtful and innovate proposals on this topic.

The plethora of unformulated or unanswered questions within the field led us to conclude that specifying programmatic areas might limit the formulation of the well-defined questions and well-executed research proposals we are seeking. PMI values quality research, with no bias toward the use of one methodology over another. The “thick descriptions” of constructs and phenomena that qualitative methods can achieve are often the best method to cast light on a specific question. The selection of methodology should be properly matched to the research question. Thus, projects using either phenomenological methods such as case studies and action research will be given the same consideration as those taking a positivist, hypothesis-based approach.

This year we hope to attract proposals from scholars both within and outside the field of project management (e.g. management and/or its sub-fields, organizational psychology, sociology of formal organizations, education, linguistics, etc.) whose work has direct application to any aspect of the project management body of knowledge or its practice. In addition, we encourage proposals on research involving multi-disciplinary teams of investigators or teams consisting of academics and practitioners, who can potentially bring new ways of thinking and related bodies of literature to the field.

Preliminary proposals will be accepted between **April 1 and May 25, 2009**, and those advancing to the second round will be notified by **July 10**. Awards, up to \$50,000, will be announced in October.

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