

Project Management update from Argentina



By Cecilia Boggi, PMP
International Correspondent
Buenos Aires, Argentina

In recent times we have had many developments regarding significant projects and events of Project Management in Argentina.

Among the highlights, we can mention that in the month of October has been released and launched the ARSAT-1, first Argentine telecommunications satellite for the purpose of providing telecommunications in the country. ARSAT-1 is the first satellite of the Argentine Geostationary Satellite Telecommunications System, a plan that involves the design and manufacture three own satellites and launch into orbit and operated by Argentina with the aim of increasing the country's capabilities in telecommunications and promote the development of the space industry. Undoubtedly, a project of vital importance to the region!

Another of the highlights of this region is the realization of PMI Congress of the Latin American Southern Region, called PMI Tour Cono Sur, which this year celebrates its tenth anniversary.

This event taking place since 2005, currently is being developed in 11 locations in the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. In the case of Argentina, the PMI Tour Cono Sur has three events, one in the city of Mendoza, organized by the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Chapter, one in Buenos Aires and the last one in the city of Rosario, organized by the PMI Buenos Aires Chapter. I have been fortunate to participate in the congresses of Mendoza and Buenos Aires and I can ensure that the level thereof is growing every year.

As keynote speaker of the PMI Tour Cono Sur in Buenos Aires, we had a presentation made by the Manager of Planning and Control of the company Nucleoeléctrica Argentina S.A. (NA-SA), who was one of the responsables of the project of construction of the Nuclear Plant Atucha II, Engineer José Salla. That

project was mentioned in the August issue of PMWJ, as it has generated great interest when it entered into production. See article:

<http://pmworldjournal.net/article/project-management-update-from-argentina-10/>

Regarding this project, I had the opportunity to talk with engineers Claudio Arfeli and Osvaldo Ucha, partners and directors of the firm Metacontrol, a company specializing in planning and management of construction projects and representatives in Argentina of the suite Oracle Primavera, specialized software for projects, programs and portfolios management.

Eng. Arfeli said that in the month of August 2006, the Project Manager of the project of the Nuclear Plant Atucha II, Ing. Antunez, made a presentation on the re- launch of this major project in the Argentine Conference on Project Management organized PMI Chapter Buenos Aires, with the presence of then Secretary of Energy 's Office , Eng. Daniel Cameron.

As discussed in the August article, the proposed construction of Nuclear Plant Atucha II was initially launched in 1980 and was then expected to finalize in 1987, but was suspended in the 90s and then re-launched in 2006.

Claudio Arfeli stressed that "There were many challenges that arose when in 2006 the Argentine government decided to re-launch the project to the completion of the Nuclear Plant Atucha II, as part of the re- launch of the Argentine Nuclear Plan. Retaking a project, with 20 years behind in its completion, it was a few times identified event in the world, and is without doubt unique in our country. In this respect the political courage and vision that the government printed then stands, supporting the actions of the management team, led by Ing . JL Antunez. "

"Being a nuclear power, issues of scope and quality do not allow other qualification than excellence. Therefore, without the least flexibility in these respects, the deadline for completion, proved to be a management priority. With this premise, one of the first decisions taken was required framing Processes, Techniques and Tools to be used for Project Management Deadlines" adds Arfeli.

Eng. Osvaldo Ucha commented that "The project management team decided to apply the highest standards of management that were being used in the construction of more than 20 nuclear power plants located throughout the world and the processes, techniques and tools described in the PMBOK Guide were established as a common language within the Nuclear Plant Atucha II project. Also, their primary responsible was certified as a PMP and the tool selected for planning was the world class tool, Primavera Suite Software. For licensing, installation, implementation, training and initial operation of this software, it was contracted MetaControl Argentina SA, under the responsibility of Eng. Claudio Arfeli."

“After a couple of years, when the project team managed autonomy under the responsibility of Eng. Miguel Baez, Construction Coordinator, and Eng. José Salla as Coordinator of Planning, Plans and Programs, MetaControl Argentina SA withdrew from the project.

The planning included about 150,000 activities, which reflected more than 40 million man-hours of construction and assembly. The equipment developed by Nuclioeléctrica Argentina S.A. (NA-SA), with the support of Local Consultants as MetaControl Argentina SA was consolidated to face the new challenges that required the development of Argentine Nuclear Plan capabilities" concludes Eng. Ucha.

Hereby, thank the engineers Claudio Arfeli and Osvaldo Ucha for their valuable feedback on the experience of the planning of this project.

We are also proud to have in our country a project that received the “2014 PMI Award for Project Excellence” in the PMI Congress 2014 held in last October in Phoenix, Arizona. This project called “Padrones Electorales Argentina 2014” consisted in consolidating the Electoral Registers and modernizing the documentation and printing capabilities. It was developed by Kodak Argentina and directed by consultancy NT Advisors. The Client was the Electoral Justice of Argentina.

As announced PMI on the awards ceremony, this project has been awarded for delivering simple, innovative and efficient solution for election ballots on a democratic society and for representing a change paradigm for future projects in government and emerging markets. The project was completed 10 days before the deadline, with a budget deviation less than 5%, providing the whole scope and even surpassing 52% more images that were printed from the original target, with respect to the quality, production was audited and accepted by the customer, achieving one of the processes with lower error rate, 36 risk events were managed and implemented three risk contingency plans. The Argentinian Electoral Justice wrote two letters congratulating the team for results and expressing his satisfaction as a customer.

This demonstrated that it is possible to make globally visible the efforts to move forward the profession in the region and that we have important projects, services and products that deserve recognition and global visibility.

In 22 December at 18.30 at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) will be held a presentation of the Thornton Banks project, which corresponds to the construction of a transformer station at sea in Belgium to transfer energy from a wind farm located 30 kilometers from the Belgian coast to the mainland. The speaker is the Project Director, Eng. Jorge Brischetto, PMP, from the company ABB Sweden.

Thornton Bank is in commercial operation at 100% since 2013 with an installed wind farm capacity of 325 MW, enough to power 300,000 homes with electricity and represents 7% of renewable energy in Belgium.

The lecture will focus on the technical details of the electrical connection of the wind farm to the mainland, and the implementation of the proposed construction of the substation at sea and installation of submarine cables.

The event is organized by the Secretary of Institutional Relations of the Faculty of Engineering of the UBA with the support of PMI Chapter Buenos Aires, Argentina and the company ABB. Students and graduates of the School of Engineering as well as PMI Buenos Aires Chapter members are invited.

Therefore, we can conclude that fortunately, excellence in Project Management is still inspiring to organizations and professionals in the country.

For more information on local events of **PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter** visit the PMIBA [website](#) and for information and **PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter** visit the PMINC [website](#).

About the Author



CECILIA BOGGI

International Correspondent

Buenos Aires, Argentina



Cecilia Boggi, PMP is founder and Executive Director of activePMO, giving consulting services and training in Project Management and Leadership skills in Argentina and Latin America.

After graduating with a degree in Computer Science Engineering from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, she has managed software development projects and PMO implementation projects for more than 20 years both in the government and private sector. Cecilia also has graduated from an Executive Program in Business Management at Universidad del CEMA. She holds the Project Management Professional (PMP®) credential since 2003, is certified as SDI Facilitator from Personal Strengths© and is alumni of the PMI Leadership Institute Master Class 2012. Ms. Boggi is Past President of the PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter, and is a founding member of the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Chapter and PMI Santa Cruz Bolivia Chapter. She has been designated by PMI in the role of Mentor of Region 13, Latin America South, for the years 2014-2016. Cecilia has participated in the development of PMBOK® Guide 5th Edition, leading the Chapter 9, Human Resource Management, content team and she is professor of Project Management in some Universities and Institutes in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia.

She can be contacted at cb@activepmo.com and www.activepmo.com