

# Driving innovation and unlocking success through project management developments <sup>1</sup>

**Andrew Conway**

Chief Technology Officer, Xergy

The need for effective project management software is no secret, regardless of the sector. The challenge for businesses comes in identifying the right tools for the job, and then implementing them effectively.

With 77% of high performing projects using digital tools to enhance the business activity completion<sup>2</sup>, and 37% of project portfolio managers reporting that digital transformation is the biggest priority for their business in 2024<sup>3</sup>, the incentive to implement this type of software is clear. However, there is still a long way to go before technologies that can better enhance project performance are fully embraced.

## A diverse work landscape

Digital project management can mean many things to different people; it often depends on in which sector it is being applied and the project requirements. For example, one company might prioritise tendering for new activities if they have a high project turnover, others might be focused on ensuring they have the right people for the job, and some may need a different system for keeping track of their finances.

With workplaces becoming ever more global, and work from home policies still the norm for many organisations, having a digital system that improves workflows, without requiring face-to-face meetings, can also support enhanced operations. In 2023 it was found that only 14% of project teams are working from one centralised location.<sup>4</sup> In addition, 58% of project managers work remotely,<sup>5</sup> a trend which has continued into 2024.<sup>6</sup> This means that utilising a system that is accessed and implemented remotely, to improve project roadmaps, is an essential part of the modern working world.

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<sup>1</sup> How to cite this work: Conway, A. (2024). Driving innovation and unlocking success through project management developments, advisory, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XIII, Issue VI, June.

<sup>2</sup> <https://xergy.com/proteus-blog/project-management-in-2024/>

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## **The role of people in this digital space**

People are at the heart of digital innovations. It's been a passion of mine to work closely with my team, as well as external clients, to provide a supportive and uplifting environment and improve workplace practices. From an internal standpoint, management of people has been an integral part of my career, working alongside many different individuals to achieve the best results for our customers.

I've had the pleasure of working with many people I have known from previous roles and have seen them grow from graduates into leaders. We've also been lucky to have benefitted from Scottish Enterprise funding which has allowed us to start developing the next generation of talent, allowing us to take on interns and build our in-house development team in Scotland.

When it comes to project management software itself, identifying and improving pain points to help enhance efficiencies for the business is one thing, but it's also about improving the experience of a company's people and making their lives easier. This can come in many forms, from ensuring a project is worthwhile bidding for, to choosing the right people to fulfil a task, to tracking time spent on activities. This allows teams to collaborate more efficiently across multiple areas of the business, which is shown to be the most significant challenge to successful project management.<sup>7</sup>

## **The next step**

On the technology front, exciting opportunities are being presented across the project management sector, particularly with technologies like AI. There's no question it will significantly change the way companies will do business. The challenge is to remember that it's a powerful tool, but it needs to be used in specific, practical ways that tap into its true value.

One of AI's most significant contributions, which is already being applied to project management software, is its ability to analyse historical project data and uncover patterns, trends, and potential risks. By analysing this data, machine learning algorithms can predict future project outcomes based on past performance, helping teams to understand what factors contribute to success or failure by sifting through vast amounts of information. This enables organisations to anticipate challenges, allocate resources more efficiently, and optimize project workflows to combat issues before they arise.

AI is also going to play a meaningful role in Xergy's project management software Proteus. We're working on areas surrounding the automatic generation of work breakdown structures, based on past projects and the subsequent planning and forecasting tasks. Further AI innovations are currently in development, speeding up some of the more repetitive, administrative activities such as proposal writing.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://xergy.com/proteus-blog/project-management-in-2023/>

Around half of project professionals already report that AI is having a positive impact on efficiency and project success<sup>8</sup>. Indeed, it's estimated that 80% of project management activities will be eliminated by 2030, as AI continues to develop and take on these functions.<sup>9</sup> As this opportunity grows with rapid pace, the future of project management hangs on ensuring we're keeping our fingers on the pulse for the next step in improving business performance across multiple sectors and harnessing the developing technologies on the horizon.

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## About the Author



### **Andrew Conway**

United Kingdom



**Andrew Conway** is Chief Technical Officer at Xergy and leads on development and delivery of its innovative Proteus project management software. He is an award-winning digital professional with over 10 years' experience of developing complex conceptual projects. He regularly supports businesses on project specific areas, including application development, cloud architecture, business strategy and product design across diverse industries including energy, finance, and sport.

Throughout his career, Andrew has advised numerous organisations including Rangers Football Club, SSE, Virgin Money, St Andrews Links, The Open (R&A), Dundee City Council and Dundee Football Club on their digital requirements and supporting commercial success through his technical and creative expertise.

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For information about Proteus, visit <https://xergy.com/>

To reach the team at Xergy directly, email [requests@xergy.com](mailto:requests@xergy.com)

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<sup>9</sup> <https://xergy.com/proteus-blog/project-management-in-2024/>