

Case Study: Strategic Planning & Management Consulting

Introducing Transformative Technologies at the National Science Foundation (NSF)

The Customer

The mission of the National Science Foundation (NSF), an independent federal agency, is to promote the progress of science. Its Division of Information Systems (DIS) supports that mission by launching new and emerging technologies within the agency.

The Challenge

The DIS knew that the NSF needed to bring discipline to project management so that the agency could more effectively anticipate the requirements of pending technology projects.

The agency lacked the bandwidth to effectively plan and prioritize technology projects. But the DIS wanted to improve its ability to manage a portfolio of technology investments and to continually improve the NSF's level of service.

The Deliverables

Catapult won a Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA) contract to provide technical analysis and engineering services. Catapult won this contract because NSF viewed the company as technically proficient and possessing the breadth of technologies to cover the scope of the contract.

On the contract, the Catapult Team provides analysis, systems engineering, project management and technical support services in the development, implementation, and support of secure enterprise-wide information technology solutions.

One of the areas Catapult is focused on is facilitating several key technology acquisitions that the NSF wants to make. The Catapult Team is helping NSF move

through the acquisition timeline, evaluating various solutions and making technology recommendations. In addition to these and other services, Catapult is also performing:

- *Software Engineering* services to develop a custom application that helps the NSF manage financial reporting;
- *Information Assurance/Cyber Security* services to ensure computing resources are put to proper use;
- *An enterprise business intelligence tool implementation* to consolidate multiple sources of data.

Catapult also plays a pivotal role in integrating related work performed by other contractors working within the NSF.

The company's ability to rapidly respond to variations in work requirements is one of its greatest strengths.

For example, Catapult can meet management consulting challenges, such as helping the NSF to manage a Business Process Reengineering (BPR) project, but also can bring the technical experience to help scope a data warehouse project.

The Results

By working with the Catapult Team, the NSF is becoming more sophisticated in how it approaches technology projects and in how it estimates the costs of those projects.

With Catapult's help, there is more discipline in project planning, which aids the NSF to be more responsive to inquiries from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).