

FOREWORD

In the last 50 years, project management has evolved from an expeditor and coordination role to the management of complex pieces, from system conception to design, integration, delivery, and long-term support. Along the way, methodologies, processes, and tools have been developed which, with the help of computer technology, have enabled improved planning, tracking, and control.

There has also been a proliferation in the number of project management how-to books published—most of them valuable, detailed guides that help project managers better plan and execute projects.

This book is different, however, and well overdue. It is about the Project Manager as an individual.

This book focuses on the important elements of management and leadership and on the careful balance between them in a project management environment. Much more importantly and uniquely, this book is a guide for achieving excellence as a Project Manager. It points the way forward to becoming what Laszlo refers to as an outstanding Project Manager.

In the course of my business career, I have worked with many Project Managers who could have benefited from the advice offered in this book. Indeed, I met few *outstanding* Project Managers during my many jobs in the Air Force and in business. And I was always aware that there was little written on the subject of leadership in project management.

For this reason, I was pleased when Laszlo asked me to help review drafts as he made progress with the book. While I contributed little to the messages in the book, I did become confident that the world of project management,

The Power of Project Management Leadership
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and business in general, would be much better served as a result of the guidance in this book. I know that I could have used it during my project management days.

Laszlo has done an excellent job of capturing all of his thoughts pertaining to management and leadership— thoughts that he has garnered over the course of his career. He presents them, and a practical model, as a framework of the important components that lead to personal excellence in project management. The book explores how a risk-smart attitude and an accountability-based mindset are key components of leadership, and it relates these important ideas in the model for excellence.

Furthermore, Laszlo presents a self-evaluation guide to measure one's progress toward personal project management excellence. This is unique and will be of interest to seasoned Project Managers, people transitioning to project management, and those who are just starting a career in project management. Indeed, it will also be of interest to those who have general business management roles.

This book should soon find its way into MBA programs which, for too long, have ignored project management as a vital element of business.

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