

University Deploys Unifier Cloud Solution for Efficient Enterprise Project Management and Cost Controls.

A Gaea Solution Review

“Gaea has been great to work with, mindful of how to best leverage a limited budget and perform on an aggressive timeline. Their attention to our needs stayed vigilant even after getting us live in production, helping to sort out system quirks and to provide one-on-one, online, how-to sessions as requested.”

- Jessica Duffy,
Program Manager, Capital Projects

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About UC Merced

Founded in 2005, UC Merced is the tenth, and newest, of the University of California campuses. The University spans 810 acres, with more than 1500 faculty members, and more than 6200 students enrolled. All of UC Merced's buildings are LEED certified. The University of California regents recently approved a \$1.14 billion proposal to double the size of UC Merced by 2020. It is anticipated that following campus expansion, enrolment will top out at about 25,000 students.

The Challenge

UC Merced's new campus development project, dubbed P3 2020, was authorized by the regents in 2015. The project team is required to process, monitor, and document many requests and submittals. P3 2020 requires a structured contract compliance system; however, UC Merced's existing systems were not adequate to properly support the P3 2020 project. UC Merced needed to implement a new project management and cost controls solution with an aggressive timeline of just 50 days. The system needed to be able to reduce costs, increase productivity, improve the quality and timeliness of project information, increase accountability, standardize business processes, and increase data accuracy.

Gaea's initial assessment found that there was no capital planning system in place. Likewise, no real estate system was in place and these activities were manually managed with spreadsheets. UC Merced was using a system for project management, but it had become insufficient to support the growing needs of the university. Various workarounds and in-house tools had been deployed to support the aging project management system. Likewise, the facilities management toolset was inadequate to support UC Merced's needs, creating inefficient processes and overextended resources.

The assessment also found that document management was spread across multiple systems and was unable to handle large files. In addition, business processes (BPs) were not well documented, and strict controls were needed at the program and project levels.

The Solution

Gaea deployed a Primavera Unifier Cloud solution with a total of 24 BPs and 10 user-defined reports (UDRs). Phase gates were included to keep all information, from internal and external team members, current and visible. Gaea integrated Unifier with P6 so that all stakeholders would have visibility into project task management and schedules. By using a single, comprehensive solution, UC Merced now has a single source for project data, thereby increasing efficiency and reducing errors.