SOLUTION REVIEW: UC MERCED
University Deploys Unifier Cloud Solution for Efficient Enterprise Project Management and Cost Control

ABOUT UC MERCED
UC Merced is the tenth, and newest (founded in 2005), of the University of California campuses. It 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, P3 2020, was authorized 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 unable to 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, 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. Document management was spread across multiple systems and unable to handle large files. Business processes (BPs) were not well documented, and strict controls were lacking at the program and project levels.

THE SOLUTION
Gaea deployed a Primavera Unifier Cloud solution with a 24 BPs and 10 user-defined reports (UDRs). Phase gates were included to keep all internal and external stakeholder information 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, increasing efficiency and reducing errors.

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