

## ***AACE Webinar: Important Questions to Ask When Searching for a PMIS***

<b><u>Submitted Question</u></b>	<b><u>Answer</u></b>
<b>Can you have multiple currencies in the same project in PRISM?</b>	Yes, you can. You can have your budget in one currency and your commitments and actuals in a different currency. PRISM will convert actuals and commitments to the same currency as the budget. All of this happens on Cost Code level (not only at project level) and Contract or Purchase Order level.
<b>On Multi-national delivery and multiple currencies, how does PRISM handle that?</b>	Multi-national projects can be separated by using attributes called Group Codes in PRISM. This allows the company to map the project to the country or region where the project is executed. Multiple currencies can be used in PRISM, by project, cost code and commitment/actual. PRISM will then summarize the multiple projects based on the choice of currency in the Enterprise where a user can see all projects in a single currency, or filter for a region's projects and view the data in that region's currency, irrespective of the company standard currency. E.g., if the company standard is USD, but there are 3 regions (USD, CAD, EUR), then the user can view all the projects in any of the 3 currencies, view only the region's projects in that region's currency or view that region's data in the default USD currency.
<b>Can you do Cost Control in PRISM or is it just Estimating software?</b>	Yes, PRISM is used for both cost control and estimating. Cost management is the heart of our software product and supports all required processes including: budgeting, resource planning, time-phasing, progress and performance measurement, earned value management, cost and schedule analysis, change management, risk tracking, funds allocation, forecasting and reporting.
<b>What about archiving and final repository handover to client or end users?</b>	ARES PRISM provides a project "Archive/Restore" feature that quickly archives all the project data by Module. If a client also owns PRISM, they can restore the archive in a matter of minutes and have an exact copy of the project. If the client does not own PRISM, then you can use the "Import/Export" feature, where you can create an import/export "specification" for each PRISM database table. On the specification, you would also reference the fields within each table and export the data to files in Excel, CSV or XML formats.
<b>Do we need to keep all our cost data in Excel worksheet first and then export them to PRISM to run?</b>	No, data can be entered directly into PRISM and calculated. The purpose of providing the ability to import from Excel is only to take advantage of pre-made data when available.

## ***AACE Webinar: Important Questions to Ask When Searching for a PMIS***

<b>Can you tell us more about how resolve the integration challenge between PRISM WBS/CBS/OBS code and for example SAP constraint present with the WBS element code?</b>	The PRISM Cost module provides 2 mapping features, labeled “Ledger Codes” and “Ledger Elements”. Ledger Codes allow the User to map SAP WBS codes to PRISM Control Accounts. Ledger Elements allow the User to map SAP cost type codes (e.g. Labor, Material, Expense etc) to PRISM Control Elements. These 2 mapping tables come into play using the PRISM “Import Accounting Data” process. During that process, PRISM will import SAP commitments and actuals by converting the SAP references to PRISM equivalents. This eliminates the challenge of having to reference PRISM coding against SAP data.
<b>Can PRISM accommodate the use of International Cost Management Standard (ICMS 3)?</b>	Yes, ARES PRISM project estimation and cost management software is compliant with ICMS and enables organizations and project teams to utilize the structure put forth by the ICMS Coalition. By implementing software such as ARES PRISM, companies can generate estimates and report costing data in compliance with ICMS while still maintaining the ability to observe other internal and external costing structures required for internal governance or client request.
<b>Do you have PRISM training for just individuals or also organizations?</b>	Both. Our software training is available for individuals who are interested or larger groups at an organization. You can find more information about our training offerings here: <a href="https://www.aresprism.com/regional-training/">https://www.aresprism.com/regional-training/</a>
<b>What happens if the Client wants a report a certain way and PRISM cannot produce it? Can you try to meet their needs by “writing” a report the way they want it?</b>	We have PRISM Report Writer that allows users to customize reports. Here is a webinar that you might find helpful: <a href="https://www.aresprism.com/resources/webinar/prism-report-writing-enhancements-webinar/">https://www.aresprism.com/resources/webinar/prism-report-writing-enhancements-webinar/</a>
<b>How does PRISM support resource management on projects?</b>	ARES PRISM has staff planning functionality where you can establish a resource database for employees and categories. Users can budget and forecast calculations with hours and FTE’s defined and spread. Users can also automate the calculation of baseline budgets, approved budgets, and control budgets.
<b>I would like know if benchmarking activities are handled by this tool?</b>	With ARES PRISM CostMo capability, organizations can bring pricing information from PRISM Estimating and actual cost information from PRISM Cost. You can consolidate cost estimates from multiple historical projects, normalise data to account for local factors and inflation, access templates such as international standards, and analyse at an asset level and a component level with cost of delivery of that asset.
<b>What is the size limit of data?</b>	PRISM has no size limit. This is controlled by the database; either Oracle or MS Sequel Server.

## ***AACE Webinar: Important Questions to Ask When Searching for a PMIS***

<b>Any configuration with BIM 4D, 5D and Risk analysis software?</b>	Yes, PRISM Estimating has BIM 3D/4D/5D capabilities. If an organization already has an existing BIM/risk software system that they want to bring in, then PRISM Integrator can be used to connect to PRISM.
<b>Is there a relationship between the cost breakdown structure and the work breakdown structure?</b>	There is a relationship if the User decides to use the WBS and CBS in the structure of the project's "Control Account". The format of the Control Account ID is user defined and can include a mix of various attributes; WBS, CBS, OBS or other user-defined "Group" codes (i.e. custom text fields).
<b>For estimating, does PRISM have it's own estimating / commodity database or does it just provide a means to integrate an existing estimating tool?</b>	PRISM Estimating does not provide it's own estimating/commodity database, but it does provide web access to commercial databases such as RS Means or Richardson's.
<b>With regard to Data Security and Confidentiality - who has/can access to the data?</b>	The PRISM "Administrator" controls access the software and to the project data. The Administrator sets up Users; assigns them to projects, assigns them to Modules within each project; and sets their permission level in each module, e.g. None, View Reports, Read Data, Change Data, Add Records, Delete Records, Run Processes and Administrator permission.
<b>What options are there for a project-record extract for delivery to our client of a complete record? Is there a provision to do an external data record at the end of the project to provide the client with a complete project record?</b>	PRISM provides a project "Archive/Restore" feature that quickly archives all the project data by Module. If a client also owns PRISM, they can restore the archive in a matter of minutes and have an exact copy of the project. If the client does not own PRISM, then you can use the "Import/Export" feature, where you can create an import/export "specification" for each PRISM database table. In the specification, you would also reference the fields within each table and export the data to files in Excel, CSV or XML formats. The files represent a complete project record which a client can easily import into their ERP or other legacy software.
<b>Does the system have the capability to create and compare different what-if-scenarios, either cost- wise or schedule-wise?</b>	Yes, in PRISM a User can make use of the Archive/Restore feature whereby a User easily archives a project and all of its data into a file. They then create a new "what-if" project and restore the original archive. They could then make modifications to the "What-IF" project and using Enterprise Reports, produce reports that compares the original data and what-if data.
<b>Is the data saved in Cloud, AWS or Microsoft Data Centers?</b>	It's up to you. Some of our clients prefer to install PRISM on premise. Others prefer to have it hosted in the cloud using AWS, MS Azure or Loadspring. Any hosting site can be used.

## ***AACE Webinar: Important Questions to Ask When Searching for a PMIS***

<p><b>For measuring physical progress, we normally use a spreadsheet that shows the budget quantities and rules for how progress is measured and when measured, the % progress is entered onto the Schedule to then generate the EV. I would like to know if you have a module that can eliminate the spreadsheet and work hand in hand with schedule?</b></p>	<p>PRISM Field module provides the ability to create “Progress Accounts” with quantity and hour budgets and forecasts. Each Progress Account can be progressed using various methods such as installed quantities, hours worked or rules of credit based on the nature of the work. “Detail” Progress Accounts can be linked to “Master” Progress Accounts in order to summarize progress to a higher level. E.g. you may decide to create a Progress Account for each individual pump on a project and update progress using a defined “Rules of Credit” standard for pumps. Each pump is then linked to a Master Progress Account that represents all pumps in a specific area of a plant. As each pump is progressed, the Master account is also progressed based on the weighting of each pump. Progress Accounts can also be linked to “Key Commodities” in order to determine the percent complete of all piping work or all concrete work etc. It’s up to the User to determine what is a “Key Commodity”. Finally, Progress Accounts can be linked to Control Accounts in the Cost Module in order to calculate Control Account percent complete and earned costs. While it is possible to import schedule activities into the Schedule Module and link them to Progress Accounts in the Field Module, PRISM does not provide a standard process to calculate Activity percent. However, assuming multiple Progress Accounts are linked to each Activity, a User can make use of the “Excel Reports” feature to export the progress account data to Excel and use it to summarize progress by Activity. This data can then be imported into P6 or MSP or whatever scheduling tool you are using.</p>
<p><b>What if the Client is using the PRISM software and the contractor and sub-contractors are not, how is the transfer of information/documentation is done?</b></p>	<p>Depending on the nature of the data, the Client has 3 options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In PRISM, setup “Import Export specifications” whereby the client provides the contractor with an Excel template(s) that they would be asked to populate and that can be easily imported.</li> <li>2. The Client can setup the Contractor as a PRISM User with limited access to a specific project; a specific module in the project and specific records in each module.</li> <li>3. The Client can setup the Contractor as a PRISM Go User with access to the “Contractor Portal” feature, whereby a Contractor can update their Contract’s progress data by Contract Pay Item; submit their data to the Client for review or adjustments and once approved; produce a Progress Claim in the PRISM Invoice Module.</li> </ol>