TURNAROUND TIP SHEET #6

T/ASC® IJ Philosophy vs. Precedence Planning

Why do we advocate planning with arrow diagrams (I/J or Start/End Nodes) instead of Precedence?

First things first: the primary purpose of planning your work is to keep things for everyone as simple as possible – don't complicate things!

The Problem

Before the advent of major computer usage, many plans were put together using the I/J or Start/End node philosophy. It was simple and direct – list out the activities with their estimates one after the other, and parallel them where necessary, if you're breaking down equipment like an exchanger into its components.

In recent years, Precedence Planning has come into vogue. Create your list of activities with estimates. Then decide where they fit in relation to other activities. Start at the same time? (Start/Start), Finish at the same time? (Finish/Finish), Start after the previous activity is finished (Finish/Start?), lag the starts, lag the finishes? Computers lend themselves to this type of planning very easily and you can create yourself many neat and intricate diagrams with them.

The problem comes when it's time for everyone to look at these plans – every planner and manager in the room has a different philosophy and we've seen many meetings get bogged down in the minutiae of

where two activities fit rather than focusing on the task at hand. That task is simply "What are we doing?" and "When are we doing it?"

Another consideration is what happens if the logic is simply incorrect or there is reason for disagreement? Or if plans have to re-worked once the maintenance Turnaround event happens? Or there is found work? What happens if the execution teams decide to work things a bit differently than what was in the plan? Now the planner has to jump through hoops in a very short period of time to put the plan back together before the next set of reports can be printed for the field supervision and managers… meaning **stress** for all!

The T/ASC Solution

Once again the solution: KEEP IT SIMPLE! Remember, a Turnaround is incredibly complex to manage due to the changing nature of the remaining scope and time.

List your activities and estimates linking them with start and end nodes (most planners start at 5 and increment by 5). Activities that can start at the same time (Example, disassembly) have a common I or start node, activities that can finish at the same (Example, Reassembly for testing) have a common J or finish node.

Then, in a meeting, it's relatively simple to explain to everyone the sequence of work. If people disagree on the start or finish you simply change the appropriate node(s) and all your links remain in place. If you need to add work during execution mode, add the new activity with the appropriate Start and Finish node and you're good to go.

Using our Network Diagram or Pert Chart greatly simplifies this work as the adding, and node changing can be easily done on the screen.

For more information, **please contact us at 337.764.9497 or go to www.tascplanning.com.**