

HOW COST ESTIMATION CAN DRIVE SMARTER PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES

By Ko des Bouvrie

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Cost Engineering Consultancy

About Ko des Bouvrie

Experience:

- Co-founder of Cost Engineering Consultancy and Cleopatra Enterprise
- Senior Consultant with more than 40 years of experience
- Consulting industries such as oil & gas, petrochemical, power, mining & minerals, chemicals, construction and pharmaceutical

Field associations:

- Member of NAP/DACE, AACE International, ICEC and AcostE
- Teacher of cost engineering courses







- Introduction
- What is estimating?
- Estimating techniques
- Accuracy of the estimate
- Benchmarking and continuous improvement

A Brief Introduction

- 24+ years experience
- Software and consultancy solution
- Operating worldwide
- Knowledge Provider
- Empowering organizations to improve their project performance



Clients and Industries



- Bulk storage
- Construction industry
- EPC(M)
- Food and Nutrition

- Infrastructure
- Offshore
- Oil & Gas industry
- Heavy industry

- Pharmaceutical industry
- Petro-/chemical industry
- Power industry
- Mining & Minerals



What is estimating?



Cost engineering

To start: what is cost engineering?

 That area of engineering practice where engineering judgment and experience are utilized in the application of scientific principles and techniques to the problems of cost estimating, cost control and profitability.



Cost engineering

The Profession of Cost Engineering:

Applying methods and techniques for:

- Cost estimating,
- Cost control,
- Scheduling,
- Value engineering,
- Contracting & Tendering,
- Quantity surveying,
- Risk management,
- Profitability analysis,
- Business planning & management science
 to support asset and project management.





Cost is everything

"It costs time" "It costs resources" " It costs money"

Everything invested in assets and projects is a Cost





What is estimating?

- Predictive process used to quantify, cost, and price the resources required by the scope of an investment option, activity, or project.
- Involves assumptions and unknowns
- Goal is to minimize the uncertainty of the estimate given the level of scope definition.





Estimating techniques



Estimate types through the project lifecycle



AACE Cost Estimate Classification System

Primary Characteristic

Estimate Level	Level of Project definition	End Usage	Methodology	Expected Accuracy Range	Preparation Effort	
5	0% to 2%	Concept Screening	Capacity factored Parametric Models, Judgment or analogy	L: -20% to -50% H: +30% to +100%	1	
4	1% to 15%	Study or Feasibility	Equipment factored or Parametric Models	L: -15% to -30% H: +20% to +50%	2 to 4	
3	10% to 40%	Budget, Authorization or Control	Semi-detailed unit cost with assembly level line items	L: -10% to -20% H: +10% to +30%	3 to 10	
2	30% to 70%	Control or Bid / Tender	Detailed Unit Cost with Forced Detailed take- off	L: -5% to -15% H: +5% to +20%	4 to 20	
1	50% to 100%	Check Estimate or Bid / Tender	Detailed Unit Cost with Detailed take-off	L: -3% to -10% H: +3% to +15%	5 to 100	

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Class 5 estimate

- Prepared based on very limited information, and subsequently have wide accuracy ranges.
- Prepared for strategic business planning purposes:
 - Market studies, assessment of initial viability, evaluation of alternate solutions, location studies, etc.
- **Methods** include capacity scaling:



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Class 5 estimate

• Example: wind turbine, scaled per MW:

Cost new wind turbine = Cost reference
$$\left(\frac{\text{Capacity new}}{\text{Capacity reference}}\right)^X$$

Cost new wind turbine = € 654,000
$$\left(\frac{1.24 \text{ MW}}{1.05 \text{ MW}}\right)^{0.0}$$
 = € 723,000



Class 4 estimate

- Prepared based on limited information and subsequently have fairly wide accuracy ranges.
- Typically used for project screening, determination of feasibility, concept evaluation, and preliminary (but generally not final) budget approval.
- Methods: factor and parametric estimating.



Class 4 estimate

Factor estimating example: Lang factor method

- More detailed than the six-tenth method
- Needs sufficient specification of equipment
- Basis: equipment prices free at site (including transportation cost to site)

Total Installed Cost = Process equipment cost x Lang factor



Lang Factors



Class 4 estimate

Parametric estimating example

 Parametric relation between cost and weight of a pressure vessel:







Class 3 estimate

- Prepared to form the basis for budget authorization, appropriation, and/ or funding.
- In many owner organizations, a Class 3
 estimate may be the last estimate required
 and could well form the only basis for cost/
 schedule control.
- Methods: hybrids between factor/ parametric and deterministic methods.



Class 3 estimate

 Composites for generating more detailed estimates, based on limited information:





Class 3 estimate



- Objects combine composites:
 - 4.5" pipe
 - 150 m pipe per equipment
 - 0.9 1.2 Control valve per equipment
 - 5.5 Field instruments per equipment
 - 3 lighting fixtures per equipment



Class 2 and 1 estimate

- Deterministic (detailed) estimate.
- Forms a detailed control baseline against which all project work is monitored in terms of cost and progress control.
- For contractors, this class of estimate is often used as the "bid" estimate to establish contract value.
- Method: prepared from material lists and detailed design drawings. At this stage, not all quantities are known yet, so some still need to be based on typical quantities.



Class 2 and 1 estimate

- Example unit rate for painting a 2" steel pipe.
- Cost contains:
 - Labour hours and rate
 - Rental tools and materials

RatesPainting + Blasting [SA2.5] + 3% Touch-up, D = 2" / DN 50, >+120 up to +200 °C, CS, Pipem14.000.130.044.97Lev \land DescriptionQuantityUnitTotal costCost categoryNon labour costLabour hoursLabour cost per hourDetailsSurface preparation, Power tool deaning St3, Re7- 40/50% $0.01 m^2$ 0.08 Instal 0.00 0.19 54.40 DetailsSurface preparation, Near-White Blast deaning, SA2.5 $0.25 m^2$ 5.36 Instal 0.00 0.00 0.40 54.40 DetailsSurface preparation, Blasting grit, Supply $0.01 t$ 0.96 Material 111.59 0.00 0.40 54.40 DetailsSurface preparation, Compressor, Rent $0.00 h$ 1.88 Construction tools & equipment 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 DetailsSurface preparation, Chipping hammer, Rent $0.00 h$ 0.00 Construction tools & equipment 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 DetailsSurface preparation, Blasting grit, Disposal $0.01 t$ 1.14 Miscellaneous 131.79 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 DetailsPainting, >+120 up to +200 °C, CS, (m2), Pield $0.25 m^2$ 0.85 Prefabrication 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 DetailsPainting, >+120 up to +200 °C, CS, (m2), Material $0.25 m^2$ 0.85 Prefabrication 0.00 0.00 0.06 0.140 DetailsPainting, >+120 up to +200 °C, CS, (m2),	evel ID	D Description				l	Unit	Cost	Labour hours	Rental hours	No	on labour cost	
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Accuracy of the estimate



Accuracy of the estimate

- An estimate should not be regarded as a single point number (or cost)
- An estimate is a range of potential cost outcomes, and associated probabilities of occurrence
- Thus the accuracy range of an estimate is a probabilistic assessment of how far a project's final actual cost can be expected to vary from the estimate
 - The range is driven by risks



Estimate Accuracy Range



Estimate Accuracy Range



Accuracy and contingency

- Contingency does not increase the accuracy of the estimate
- Contingency reduces the probability of overrunning the budget
- Management decides







Estimate Accuracy and Project Definition



What defines the accuracy?

Influences on the estimate

- Scope definition
- Software Tools
- Database
- Risk
 - Systemic risk (driven by organisation)
 - Project-specific risk
- Market influences
- Knowledge of the cost engineer





Benchmarking and continuous improvement



Benchmarking for continuous improvement



Examples

- Cost & schedule competitiveness
 - How did the project perform compared to similar projects (internal and/or external)?
- Cost & schedule factor
 - How does productivity compare?
- Cost & schedule growth
 - How good were the estimate and schedule at predicting final outcomes?





Integrated software for continuous improvement

- Software systems support an integrated approach.
 As a result, maximum performance can be achieved.
- Examples:
 - Setting up a transparent budget meeting stakeholder requirements.
 - **Monitoring** of project costs and planning during execution
 - Visualize performance indicators / KPIs
 - Provide improved **forecasting** information
 - Perform **Big Data** analysis to retrieve meaningful ratios and metrics from projects to Benchmark and calibrate estimating data.



Integrated software for continuous improvement



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