

FEED health check



The front end of a project by definition will only deliver a certain level of detail, nevertheless it is vital during this pre-sanction phase that all significant costs and risks are identified.

Project delivery teams too often focus on the core process and do not consider peripheral requirements such as utility upgrades, underground services, specialist subcontracts and operational constraints when scoping a project and compiling sanction estimates. An accurate FEED has been shown to improve project performance in terms of its execution, installed cost and schedule; thereby reinforcing the importance of robust early scope definition.

What we offer

ABB combines its expertise with sector specific methodologies to test FEED packages and establish whether the necessary level of definition is in place to support the proposed execution strategy and accompanying sanction grade estimate. The process, by default, also highlights to the project team those areas that present significant risk; be it technical, commercial or schedule related.

ABB utilises an easy-to-use, sector specific, software tool which provides a quantitative means of measuring project definition for completeness against pre-defined elements covering the full project life cycle. The targeted level of completion for each element accounts for the fact the project is at FEED stage and is thus calibrated accordingly.

The tool identifies and precisely describes each element, to enable the project team to ascertain firstly whether or not it is in place and secondly its level of completeness. Once agreed by the reviewing team, a score is assigned for each element based on clear, pre-defined criteria. The totalised score for all elements indicates the health of the FEED package. The reporting function also identifies the top ten areas of risk in terms of low definition.

ABB generally runs FEED health check workshops with teams made up of both key project members and experienced ABB personnel, the latter being drawn from our project management and engineering functions. Key project members can include personnel from client and/or engineering contractor organisations. Depending on the size of the project the workshop typically takes between one and three days to complete.

Benefits

ABB's application of a FEED health check has proven beneficial to many of our clients. This proven methodology can:

- Highlight weaknesses in project execution strategy
- Promote effective project execution
- Highlight deficiencies in FEED definition
- Rank elements in terms of definition
- Identify outstanding FEED work scope
- Detect weaknesses in sanction estimates
- Promote robust sanction estimates

Research has shown there is a direct correlation between a low score for FEED definition and poor project performance. Conversely, those projects that result in a high score achieve good outcomes. Why leave it to chance?

Why ABB?

ABB has a strong track record in delivering FEED health checks. Our unique capabilities stem from a proven track record in project development and design coupled with the fact our staff have an in-depth understanding of the operational issues faced by manufacturing organisations; indeed many of our engineers have worked on live assets for much of their careers. As such we understand from both a designer's and operator's perspective the elements that must be well defined during the critical, early stages of a project in order to achieve the stated objectives.

