

Pit Stop approach: Have you thought about...?

AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, THE PIT STOP APPROACH IS ALL ABOUT SPEED, FOCUS, TEAMWORK AND WINNING RESULTS. ADRIAAN VAN LOON, PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALIST, EXPLAINS HOW APPLYING THIS APPROACH IN THE FEL1/2 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PHASE HELPS CLARIFY CLIENT EXPECTATIONS IN A VERY SHORT TIME ON THE DIRECTION TO TAKE, TIMELINES AND COSTS.

Derived from Lean methodology, the Pit Stop is an intensive session which can last between half a day and two days, depending on the client needs. It involves specialists from many disciplines: engineering, logistics, quality, operations, maintenance, HR and health & safety.

All aspects receive attention

‘As external experts, we listen to the client then challenge them to think from multiple perspectives,’ says Adriaan van Loon. ‘By bringing various specialists together and continually asking ‘and have you thought about?...’ the Pit Stop session ensures that all aspects of the potential project receive attention. The aim is to ensure there are no information gaps which could lead to unforeseen work and extra costs once the project is running.’

‘The Pit Stop approach is very intensive and requires concentrated input from the client side but people always leave these sessions energised and enthusiastic,’ says Adriaan. Just like a Formula 1 team, each team member has a specific role and responsibility to ensure the project is set up with the utmost speed and safety.

Repairing gaps

Rogier Spitshuis, Project Manager CAPEX Projects at DFE Pharma: ‘During the basic engineering of a large project, it became clear that there were some gaps in our design. It was a real challenge to get insight in the costs to repair these gaps. Bilfinger Tebodin was a perfect partner for us. We got this insight quickly through a 1-day Pit-Stop session sitting with their specialists and our team.’

With his team Adriaan van Loon has taken part in many Pit Stops in the Pharma and Nutraceutical sectors, but the approach is also used for clients, active in the Food and Oil & Gas sector. ‘No matter what the sector, Pit Stop shortens the time lines for taking decisions in the conceptual phase and ensures that expectations on the result and how to achieve it are clear right from the start.’



The Pit Stop approach gets its name from the fact that it follows the same principles as the Formula 1:

Focus on 1 project/task at a time:

- all information on the project must be available at the start of the project
- detailed scheduling is complete before the project is executed
- the whole team must be available for at least 80% of the time
- All stakeholders must be present at key moments for decision making
- Short sprints are the rule
- quality is assured. ■