

PRESS RELEASE  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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## Project Audits Critical in the Current Economic Climate

**Project audits uncover future opportunities and savings for projects and help to get delinquent projects back on track. Because they have a direct, bottom-line impact they can help both public and private organizations find efficiencies.**

**TORONTO, ONTARIO, January 15, 2009** – The recession has increased the need for project audits more than ever. As organizations continue to look for immediate ways in which to save money and time, a project audit can be a great way of getting to the source of project delays and other problems and tweaking the project plan.

According to [Michael Stanleigh](#), President of [Business Improvement Architects](#), a management consulting company that specializes in project consulting, “We have received more calls in this area over the past month because of the recession, than ever before.” He says, “Companies are telling us that with the layoffs they must ensure that projects in the pipeline meet their budget and completion time requirements. A [Project Health Check](#) helps them to identify the source of problems so that they can be fixed.”

Companies that are considering employee lay-offs need to make sure that the projects in their pipeline are implemented on time and on budget despite staff reductions. A [Project Health Check or Project Audit](#) can help them to make sure that things run smoothly. Companies that are scrambling to get new products to market want to accelerate their new product development life cycle and here too, project audits can be their saviour because they can quickly identify ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of projects.

Some tell-tale signs that you may be in need of a project audit are:

- Projects are not aligned with the strategic imperatives and are therefore wasting resources, time and budget.
- Organizations are not seeing a positive impact on their bottom-line and/or customers from projects.
- Projects are over-time, over-schedule and/or under-resourced.
- Innovations are failing owing to the poor management of projects.
- There are many projects of various sizes within the organization and each department but it is unclear how each one aligns with overall corporate strategy. This leads to resource over-allocation on non-priority projects.
- Resources are stretched and not sure where to spend their time.
- The organization is clear on the expected outcomes from Strategic Initiatives but aren't sure which ones will help them reach these.
- There is no strategic vision for the management of projects, though the organization may have an overall corporate strategic vision.
- The organizational culture does not support the consistent management of all projects.
- Projects are in crisis and fire-fighting is common.
- There is blame and excuses for poor project management.

According to Stanleigh, some of his customers are scrambling to get new products to market and want to accelerate their new product development life cycle with project audits by identifying why their projects are bogged down and taking so long to implement. This means that auditors need to complete Project Audits quickly in order to help their customers achieve timely results.

Business Improvement Architects helps organizations increase their operational success by assisting their management and people to work competently, both individually and as a team. Their web address is [www.bia.ca](http://www.bia.ca).

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Michael Stanleigh is Founder and President of Business Improvement Architects (bia<sup>™</sup>), a consulting firm that guides organizations to align their business strategy with their culture, performance systems and projects to reduce waste and increase profitability. Michael holds faculty positions at the American Society for Quality and for Memorial University of Newfoundland. He is a past executive member of the Project Management Institute (PMI) and International Society for Strategic Management and Planning as well as a past president of the Ontario Society for Training and Development. He has been featured and published in over 500 different magazines and industry publications and is author of the recent global report: From Crisis to Control: A New Era in Strategic Project Management.



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