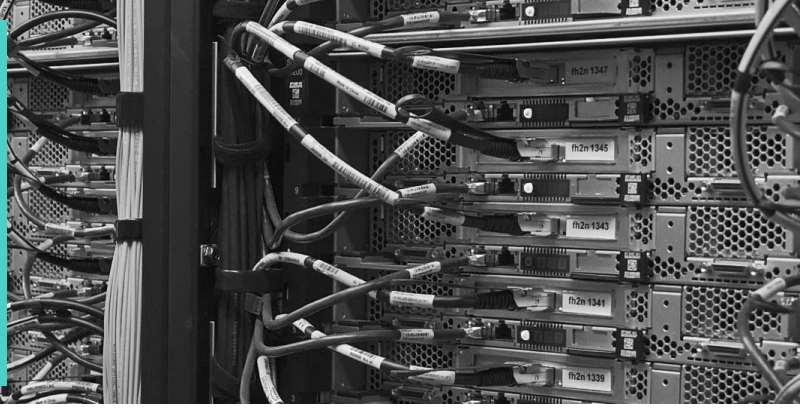# FAST

Using innovative technology and data analytics to consistently deliver successful project assurance

The Firewood Assurance Service Tool (FAST) allows you to design and implement your assurance framework and conduct assurance reviews consistently using industry best practice that is tailored to your needs.

The problems with traditional project assurance

"9.9% of every dollar is wasted due to poor project performance-that's $99 million for every $1 billion invested" (PMI, 2018)

In our experience of working with organisations to help them improve their capability to govern and deliver projects we have noticed several recurring problems with assurance, including:

- Existing assurance procedures are time-consuming as there are often over complicated
- Data is static and inaccessible because it is captured, analysed and reported on using spreadsheets
- Management lack confidence as there is no consistency in assurance without a robust framework
- Decisions take too long to make because it is difficult to make sense of all the information generated

- Remedial actions to improve project performance are missed as there is no single point of accountability
- There is a costly over-reliance on external assurance providers due to resource and skills shortages
- Lessons from previous reviews are often forgotten in the PowerPoint slides they are written on
- The root-cause of issues are not identified because findings are not supported with sources of evidence

Why FAST is transformational

Digital first, and always

FAST is fully-online with no need to export to spreadsheets or presentations. You can work from any browser and anywhere with an internet connection.

Best practice at your fingertips

FAST includes frameworks and guidance from internationally recognised best practice. It is always up-to-date and you can customise it to your needs.

Real-time (everything)

Everything you see in FAST is real-time – from the moment you start a review, all the way to completing key actions. FAST keeps you on track to success.

Key benefits to you

FAST is for individuals and teams who are responsible for and committed to delivering change that brings sustainable benefits to your stakeholders and wider community. The value you will get from using FAST include:

- Confidence to management with credibility and traceability to best practice assurance frameworks
- Time-savings with a single, easy-to-use and intuitive 'User Interface' developed by project leaders
- Reliability with a consistent and repeatable method for your individuals and teams to conduct reviews

- Immediate transparency with dashboards available to users in real-time, including agreed actions
- Prioritising improvements across the portfolio with insights on different aspects of project performance
- Continuous assurance with real time action tracking to ensure improvements are made and not forgotten

Firewood

A fully digital platform

Pre-built assurance frameworks

Providing you with access to best management practice that can be used as building blocks to create your own frameworks.

Measures for checking project performance

Allowing you to quickly review your projects using built-in measures that are aligned to the pre-built best practice frameworks.

Understanding project performance

Diving into reviews to help you understand in which areas projects are under-performing.

Evidenced based strengths and weaknesses

Describing how your projects are performing cut by different frameworks and categories – e.g. by month and year – then allowing you to improve on areas where you need to, whilst continuing doing what you are already doing well.

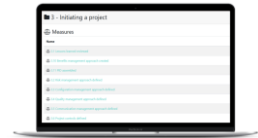### In-flight reporting and action tracking

Capturing and presenting data from reviews in real-time, allowing you to take actions immediately and not having to wait for a report to be produced.

Predictive analytics

Showing how your projects are performing over time and what to specifically look out for in future reviews – harnessing your data to make intelligent business decisions.

Portfolio performance reviews

Reviewing portfolio performance over time against multiple frameworks

Partnering with you

We offer a range of services to help you get the most from FAST, including:

- Training and support for the FAST tool itself, tailored to your specific needs
- Reviewing your existing assurance arrangements in order to help you make improvements
- Advice and support in establishing your in-house assurance capability
- Providing independent reviews of your critical projects with practical advice that you can action

About us

Firewood is a leading project management capability partner to the Global Fortune 500 and Central Government in the UK. We empower individuals, teams and organisations to always deliver successful projects, with leading edge technology and services based on internationally recognised best practice and supported by data science.

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