



## 2026 ASC Competition

### Project Management Pre-Problem Statement

Sponsored by DPR Construction

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Thank You!

Thank you for competing and taking on the challenge of educating yourself in this unique way. DPR is excited to sponsor the Project Management problem at the 2026 ASC Student Competition. As leaders of your student groups today, you have set your path to becoming the Next Generation of Construction Industry Leaders. We hope to challenge your team's ability to leverage academic knowledge, intuition, problem-solving skills, and your ability to have fun in a high intensity environment.

##### DPR's Culture and Project Approach

DPR Construction was founded in 1990 by Doug Woods, Peter Nosler and Ron Davidowski, the D, the P and the R, who set out to develop a company that cultivates an entrepreneurial, open-office environment based on a well-defined purpose, "We Exist to Build Great Things", great relationships, great teams, great buildings, and great people. DPR's culture revolves around our Core Values:

**INTEGRITY.** We conduct all business with the highest standards of honesty and fairness; we can be trusted.

**ENJOYMENT.** We believe work should be fun and intrinsically satisfying; if we are not enjoying ourselves, we are doing something wrong.

**UNIQUENESS.** We must be different from and more progressive than all other construction companies; we stand for something.

**EVER FORWARD.** We believe in continual self-initiated change, improvement, learning and the advancement of standards for their own sake.

We would encourage each of you to read more at: <https://www.dpr.com/company/culture>

#### QUESTIONS?

Please contact Matt O'Malley at [mattom@dpr.com](mailto:mattom@dpr.com).



**WE EXIST TO BUILD GREAT THINGS**



### Project Management Problem Introduction and Intent

- a. DPR has recently won an exciting new project! Your competition team will act as members of DPR Construction tasked with evaluating the project, preparing a plan for project execution, and evaluating the major risks associated. You are empowered to make key business and contractual decisions based on information at hand along with your expertise and assumptions. Your decisions will have significant consequences that impact the success of the project. The deals that you negotiate will map the road ahead but also expose you to possible roadblocks. You are expected to adapt to situations, engineer solutions, demonstrate DPR's Core Values, and develop a resolution to the project path that lies ahead. The intent of the Project Management problem is to ensure a project runs smoothly, which starts long before we ever break ground. By understanding and managing possible risks you will create a plan to prevent or address them ahead of time. Participants of the Project Management problem will complete the following deliverables throughout the competition:
  - i. Analyze project site logistics and constraints. Make recommendations for the safe and efficient execution of field operations.
  - ii. Create a construction estimate through subcontractor selection and general conditions development
  - iii. Establish the project schedule – via production planning, milestones, or phasing, visual planning and daily work plans.
  - iv. Analyze manpower and loading and craft projections
  - v. Detailed analysis of key building systems, including scope delineation, lead-time analysis and buyout recommendations.

### b. Preparation

Teams should be prepared to complete the problem utilizing the following skills:

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| i. Business Ethics and Integrity           | xiii. Scheduling and Sequencing  |
| ii. Understanding Project Delivery Methods | xiv. Short Interval Planning   |
| iii. Project Risk Assessment               | xv. Site Logistics and Construction Preparation                                      |
| iv. Unforeseen Condition Liabilities       | xvi. Managing Schedule and Cost Risks with the client, designers and subcontractors. |
| v. Scope of Work Qualifications            | xvii. Creative Thinking and Problem Solving  |
| vi. Schedule Impacts and Delays            | xviii. Drawing and Specification Review  |
| vii. Staffing and Labor Projections        | xix. Material procurement and coordination   |
| viii. Contingency and Allowances           | xx. Communication Teamwork/Team Building   |
| ix. Subcontractor Bid Review               |  |
| x. Scope of Work Comparisons               |  |
| xi. Company Qualifications and Evaluations |  |
| xii. Project Planning                      |  |



## PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

All projects have critical requirements that must be met. Cost and schedule objectives are obvious; however other criteria may include quality, sustainability, safety, reputation, etc. To successfully execute a project, we must not only meet the required standards but also demonstrate our ability to exceed expectations and deliver exceptional customer satisfaction.

As stated before, in this problem you will be challenged to create a comprehensive plan that recognizes the accepted risk and creates a strategy to contain that risk while maintaining a satisfied client. Your team's objective is to set the project up for success.

## OUTLINE OF EVENTS

### a. Pre-Competition Activities

Your team will receive a template of a placemat DPR would like you to complete and send back to us (via email, continue reading for more information). These placemats will help our judging panel familiarize ourselves with your teams. Once you've created your team email (see below for more information on emails), you will receive the template.

Additionally, your team should familiarize themselves with the programs to be used during the competition, listed below. Keep an eye out for a pre-competition workshop DPR will be hosting prior to the competition.

- Smart Sheet
- Microsoft Project
- Oracle P6
- Bluebeam Take Off
- On Screen Take Off
- G-Mail

### b. Competition Activities

When the problem commences you will be given the following primary contract documents (all documents will be distributed in electronic format):

- Subcontractor Bids and Proposals
- Subcontract Assessment Form
- General Conditions List
- Drawings & Specifications

After reviewing these documents, you will need to understand the terms and conditions of the contract, the project parameters, set the project cost estimate, and create a baseline schedule to create your project plan.

Your team's goal is to provide a comprehensive plan for the project with the information and criteria at hand and work to defend your position with reasons developed during the competition. During the competition, the teams will manage scenarios that will impact cost, safety, quality or schedule, for example:

- Scope Buy-Out process: Review & Select Subcontractors
- Site Conditions & Set Up
- Project Planning and Phasing
- Scheduled Scopes of Work
- Resolution of Unforeseen Situations





Your team's performance will be measured on the following scales: Risk Assessment & Mitigation, Budget, Schedule and Reputation. These scales will be updated continually based on the decisions made. Upon completion of the project, you will be presenting a logistics plan, key trade analysis, schedules, and cost estimates. Most importantly, identifying the possible risks the company faces in taking on and the potential mitigation strategies. Presentations will be in a debriefing format where we will be discussing the rationale behind the decisions made and your ideas for what could have done differently to return a more favorable result.

### SAMPLE TIMELINE

*(Actual timeline will vary; this information is provided to give the teams a better understanding of the activities throughout the day)*

#### Thursday of Competition:

- 6:00 am: Competition Kick Off/Distribute Problem Statement
- 10:00 am: Breakout Session (1 Team Member, 30 min – 1 hour)
- 2:00 pm: Early Deliverables Due
- 3:00 pm: Breakout Session (2 Team Members, 15 min)
- 9:00 pm: Remaining Deliverables Due to DPR

#### Friday of Competition:

- 6:00 am: Materials Due Via flash drive
- 7:00 am: Start of Presentations (20-minute presentations and 10-minute questions)

### LOGISTICS

- a. Internet access is acceptable/required. However, communication with anyone outside of your team members and the DPR team is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the competition.
- b. During the competition, please refer to the subject of your email correspondence in the subject line to maintain clarity. Except for the scheduled meeting times, information from your team to the problem sponsor's team should be transmitted via email.
- c. All documents will be relayed to your team electronically.
- d. PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION:
  - Your team will be responsible with creating a team email (for example: [asc.2026.csulb@gmail.com](mailto:asc.2026.csulb@gmail.com)).
  - When you have created your email, email Matt O'Malley at [mattom@dpr.com](mailto:mattom@dpr.com) to receive additional pre-problem documents.
  - **Please include each team members resume.**
  - It is recommended that you familiarize yourselves with the email system in advance of the competition.
  - **Pre-problem information is due January 16, 2026.**

### SCORING

You will be graded on your ability to execute a plan that is not only profitable but makes your client a raving fan. It will also require you to balance competing goals like cost, schedule, quality, safety, sustainability, etc. Below, you can see an example of the scoring rubric used in previous years' problems. This year's problem will be graded similarly, but with minor variations made due to module difficulty.