



How CatSci Navigated 100% Growth of Scientific Teams with ProjectManager

Case Study



Challenges

- Needed support for multiple methods of working on varied, complex projects
- Communication was scattered between emails, messages and in-person meetings
- Tracking equipment and human resource use was cumbersome
- Needed to go remote

Solutions

- **Easy-to-Use Interface** makes onboarding new team members easier
- **Multiple Project Views** that share data let teams work how they prefer, while all data is maintained across views
- **Communication Features** that let teams organize conversations around tasks, leading to more perspectives and innovation
- **Resource Management** lets teams know exactly when equipment is available for use

- **Cloud-Based Software** lets in-house and remote teams work together effortlessly

Results

- Rapid growth
- Increased collaboration

Dan Smith is Head of Portfolio at CatSci, an award-winning innovation partner for medicines development. He oversees the scientific teams, which doubled in number over the course of 2021.

His role is focused on project delivery and making sure CatSci's global customers achieve the outcomes they desire. Smith was part of the decision-making team who chose ProjectManager for the company.

Why Did CatSci Choose ProjectManager?

“ProjectManager was the most egalitarian and empowering of all the different tools we looked at,” Smith said. Other tools just didn’t give his teams the freedom they needed to do their work.

One of the fundamental differences between ProjectManager and similar offerings is that ProjectManager offered the transparency Smith wanted for his teams. It had multiple project views, strong communication and the flexibility to adapt to their hybrid work environment.

“With really good scientists, you need a high degree of trust. ProjectManager lends itself to a trust in teams.” he said. “We work with agile teams, and ProjectManager empowers them to deliver their projects effectively—unlike other software that restricts them and does not offer the transparency required.”

“ProjectManager lends itself to a trust in teams.”

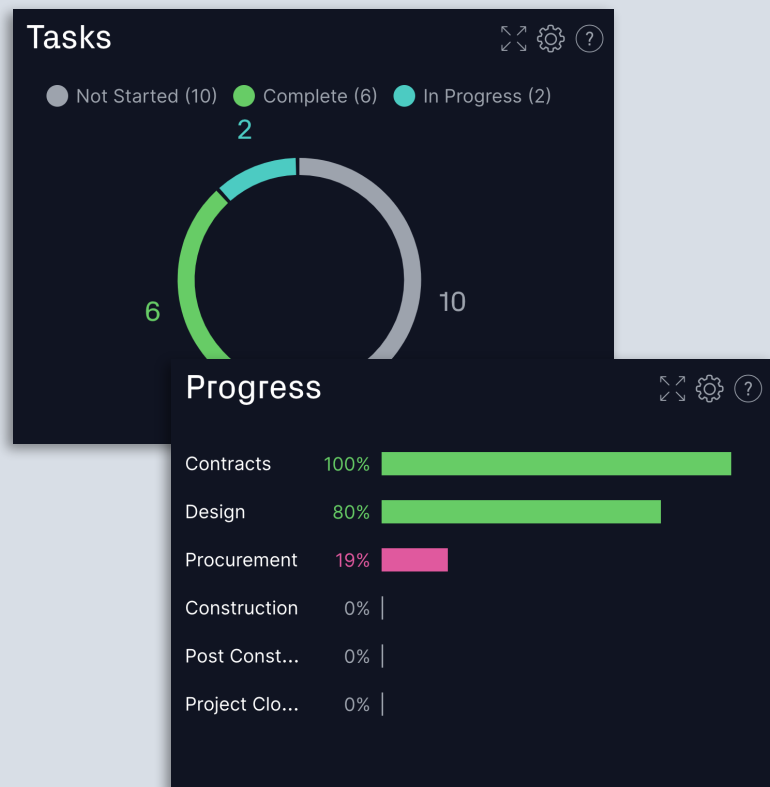


ProjectManager Provides Flexibility for Hybrid Work

ProjectManager supports traditional ways of working as well as agile methodologies. “It’s really interesting how people across the team have used ProjectManager to do all kinds of activities we didn’t anticipate originally,” Smith said. He appreciates how the tool grows with his team and allows them to work creatively.

“It’s also very intuitive to use,” he added. “Within a minute, you can learn how to use the Gantt charts or Kanban boards.” There were no issues onboarding his team to the software. The ease of use was a major factor for their adoption.

Another benefit was the multiple project views that other software lacked. They let his team work how they want to. “You can allow people to choose the best tool to solve the problem they have,” he said. “When you used the Gantt chart in other software, you were stuck there.”



Collaboration Was Boosted Since Adoption

Smith found that ProjectManager kept his team's communication tethered to the task they were working on. It allowed team members to comment in real time, but also made it easy to find specific conversations without needing to dig through various other correspondence.

“Qualitatively, communication has greatly improved,” he said. “We don’t track that quantitatively, but I can give you an example.” Smith explained that with other software, when someone joins a project that has been running for six months, it would be very difficult to bring them up to speed.

“With ProjectManager, the communication is in one place and filed by task,” Smith said. “It’s easy for them to go back over the communication and understand how we came to be there, without needing to get copied on six months of email.”

Smith also praised how you could tag anyone on the project team and bring them into a conversation at the task level. “By having conversations in that forum, you can reach people that wouldn’t normally be part of the conversation.” That added more ideas and perspective to solving problems.

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Resource Management and Reporting Delivered Value

CatSci used ProjectManager's resource management tools to add and track equipment, as well as teams. "It's easy to assign a piece of equipment to a project and then track its utilization," Smith said, adding that he uses the workflow feature a lot for equipment rather than people.

Reports have also helped Smith. "I'm regularly exporting data each week," he said. The information gathered by reporting helps him better understand the project. "I get a qualitative sense of the day-to-day project, which tells me what's going on."

Customer service at ProjectManager is also a plus. Smith notes how the team at ProjectManager stayed in touch after the onboarding and worked with CatSci to provide them with functionality that was not originally in their subscription tier

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Useful for Every Department

ProjectManager was so successful with the project team at CatSci that other departments noticed. “Our finance team adopted ProjectManager too, because they saw the benefits and how it helped them organize their work,” Smith said.

Not only that, but ProjectManager was used to help with the building of a second site for the company. “It’s very easy for us to see what’s going on there remotely and manage that, as well as the projects we have on-site. ProjectManager has been very handy in helping new team members gain familiarity with the company and our ways of working,” he said.

Smoothed the Transition to Remote

In 2020, as more people in the company began working from outside the office, ProjectManager continued to facilitate that work and keep everyone connected. “It’s really positive how we can use ProjectManager and don’t have to physically go find someone,” Smith said. “It’s difficult to imagine life before ProjectManager.”

“I mean, I really love the software,” he adds. “I think it’s fantastic. The openness of ProjectManager empowers our scientists to build the tool they need to solve the problems they have and communicate within the team freely and easily. The software helps us deliver to our customers’ objectives on time, budget and to the requisite quality. That is very powerful.”

“I really love the software...”

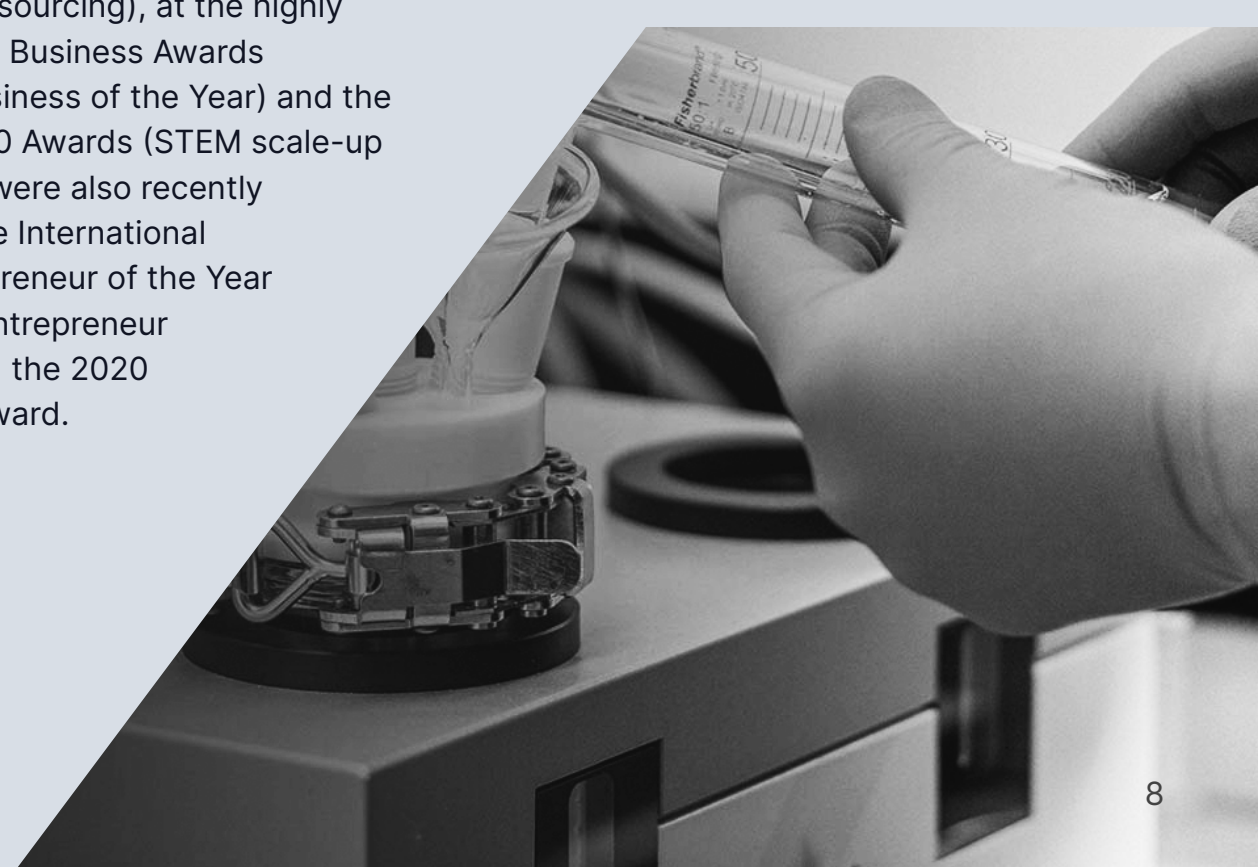
A Closer Look at CatSci

CatSci proudly serves customers across the globe, meeting their needs from candidate selection to product launch and beyond. Our tailored services include route scouting and selection, initial scale-up and risk management for early development. For later development, we provide process design, assessment and optimisation, scale-up for clinical and commercial manufacture, tech transfer and post-approval improvements. We possess a range of critical enabling technologies including catalysis, material science and analytical development.

Agile, commercially-minded and scientifically-led, CatSci leverages its highly qualified technical team and state-of-the-art facilities to empower our customers to create affordable, best-in-class small molecule therapeutics in a safer, greener and more cost-effective way. Together, we can meet the evolving healthcare needs of the world.

CatSci works efficiently with your preferred partners, while continually strengthening our own industry-leading partnerships across the pharmaceutical supply chain, to address your dynamic drug substance development needs. A true extension of your team, we are a dependable, trusted partner for innovation that takes the time to understand your project objectives and provide you with perfect-for-purpose solutions.

Recognition includes wins at the prestigious CPhI Pharma Awards (Excellence in Pharma: Contract Services and Outsourcing), at the highly esteemed Cardiff Business Awards (International Business of the Year) and the Wales STEM 2020 Awards (STEM scale-up of the year). We were also recently shortlisted for the International Expansion Entrepreneur of the Year at the Barclays Entrepreneur Awards 2020 and the 2020 Bionow Export Award.



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The screenshot displays the ProjectManager interface for a project named "Govalle Construction". The top navigation bar includes a home icon, a "To Do" section with a task "Complete Design Work" (75% complete), a "Doing" section with "Hire Crew" (due Apr 14), and a "Ready for Inspection" section with "Contracts" (60% complete). A sidebar on the left lists various project stages with their completion percentages: Construction Start Date (75%), Stage Completion (75%), Final Completion (50%), and Project Closing Phase.

The main workspace is divided into a task list and a Gantt chart. The task list is as follows:

ID	Task Name	Category
1	Contracts	Contracts
2	Proposals	Contracts
3	Documents Review	Contracts
4	Bid Date	Contracts
5	Award Date	Contracts
6	Design	Design
7	Feasibility Study	Design
8	Apply for Permits	Design
9	Start Design Work	Design
10	Complete Design W...	Design
11	Procurement	Procurement
12	Order Equipment	Procurement
13	Order Materials	Procurement
14	Hire Crew	Procurement
15	Construction	Construction

The Gantt chart on the right shows a project timeline from March 20, 2022, to April 10, 2022. Key tasks are highlighted with 100% completion: Contracts, Proposals, Documents Review, Bid Date, Feasibility Study, and Apply for Permits. A critical path is indicated by a diamond symbol on the Bid Date task, with a date of 3/29/2022.