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Innotas releases first update for hosted PPM service
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By Staff Writer

Innotas, the on-demand project portfolio service provider that emerged from stealth last year, is announcing the first of its 2007 quarterly release schedule. The initial batch of functionality targets new users, with startup

They include managing demand for new projects and resource supply, prioritizing projects, and delivering projects and maintaining established applications.

In essence, the startup kits are pre-configured applications, or templates, that have a set of standard reports, dashboards, or workflows already built.

"We provide actual report or dashboard categories, so customers have a starting point instead of looking at a blank page," said CEO Keith Carlson.

As startup templates, they are obviously pretty basic. For instance, the prioritizing projects module shows a dashboard listing incoming project requests and existing project efforts by priority. Or, the demand management piece includes starter workflows for handling requests for new projects or enhancements to existing applications.

Although it has issued five releases since announcing itself to the world last summer, this year Innotas expects to slow down to a quarterly release schedule. Upcoming releases will expose functionality as web services, using an SOA integration appliance fork Cast Iron Systems. And Innotas will refine the user interface, expanding Ajax-style rich client functionality from the project and task lists tabs to the rest of the application.

Also, Innotas will add new functionality for managing existing applications that have graduated from project (or development) phase to maintenance. The idea is to extend portfolio analysis and investment decisions across project and maintenance activities.

Innotas, the company, has a fairly interesting lineage in that much of the executive team, is comprised of former Mercury Interactive principals who are finding new life (after the HP acquisition) by reinventing what they did, but in an on-demand form.