

Exploiting ACE to Create Build-Up Estimates

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Abstract

Bottom-up estimating is an extremely helpful technique in cost estimating as it allows for highly detailed system estimates. While the process of getting raw data to support the estimate can be like pulling teeth, using ACEIT to determine your estimate doesn't have to be. This presentation describes the basic steps in constructing an ACE model to support a build up estimate.



ALL DATA EXHIBITED IN THIS BRIEF ARE ENTIRELY NOTIONAL AND DO NOT REPRESENT OR PORTRAY REAL NASA MISSION OPERATIONS FACTS OR FIGURES.



Outline

- What is bottom-up cost estimating
- Benefits to using ACEIT
- Cost model structure layout
- Creating reports
- Applying risk analysis
- Running simplified what-if scenarios
- Summary



What is bottom-up cost estimating?

- Sometime referred to as "grass roots" estimating, this methodology identifies and estimates each activity/part of a mission/product and then rolls up the individual results to produce a total project estimate (2004 NASA Cost Estimating handbook)
- Usually involves three steps:
 - Estimate the cost of each activity/part that composes the work package or product (e.g. labor and material costs)
 - Total the estimates at each activity or part level
 - Calculate an overall project estimate (this estimate is the cost rolled up to the top level or the sum of all the items at the level below it)
- Data is usually provided by those who are directly involved or very familiar with each particular work activity or part (i.e. technical personnel)
- Drawback: costly (significant time and money required to create estimate), may not be readily responsive to "what-if" requirements, progress can be delayed waiting for accurate data
- Benefit: intuitive, defensible, provides insight into major cost contributors, and leads to a fairly accurate estimate (caveat: if the work content is well understood)



Benefits to using ACEIT

- ACEIT is a standard framework with built in functionality structure
- ACEIT is flexible
 - Cost estimating inputs (e.g. manhours, labor rates, quantity) can be entered as constant data or phased over time
 - Inputs can also be adjusted using industry approved algorithms and databases to model inflation, learning, and phasing
- ACEIT integrates statistical and risk analysis to quantify uncertainty in estimates
- Can be used to support what-if scenario analysis after the model has already been constructed



- Most effective structure for a bottom-up cost model involves using the standardized Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)
 - Easily recognizable by those likely to review estimate
 - Lends itself to easy cost categorization (i.e. labor, material, travel, etc.)
- Can structure model so that cost inputs can be entered as separate elements while cost results are displayed in groups (e.g. cost by WBS, total FTE labor cost, total material cost, etc.) using Category Column functionality
- Helpful to create as descriptive a unique ID as possible for each element

Sample NASA Mission	on
Ops WBS	

Note: This is a derivative of the full CxP WBS and was chosen to simulate a more real-world perspective on the activities in a bottom-up WBS.

	WBS	Description
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	1.6.7.2	Operations Integration
	1.6.7.3	Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operation:
	1.6.7.4	Mission Operations Planning Production and Operation
	1.6.7.5	System Flight Control Operations

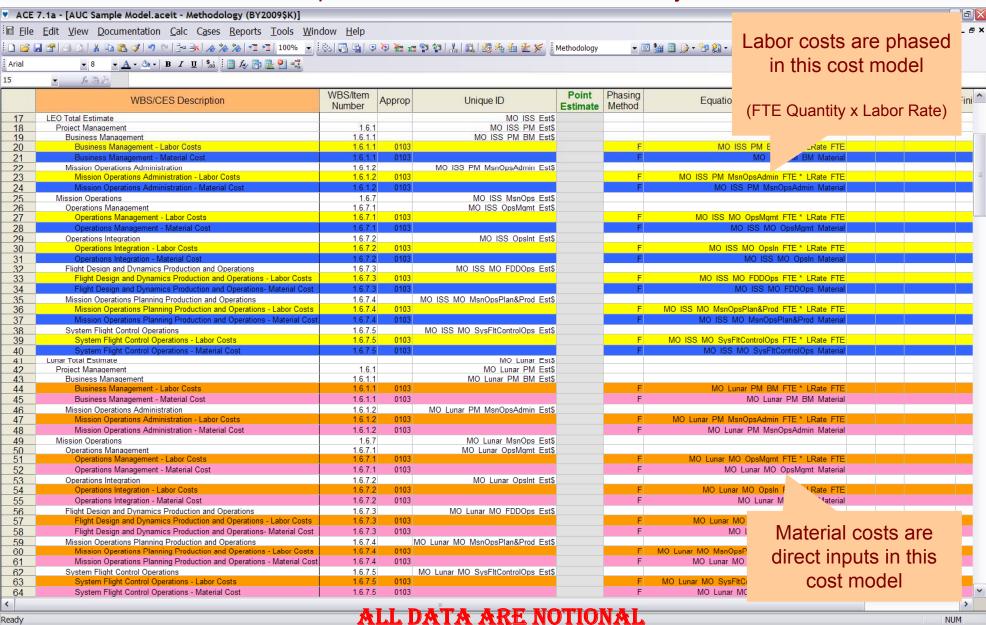


Sample Screen Shot of Data Input Layout





Sample Screen Shot of Calculation Layout





Sample Screen Shot of Category Columns Layout

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Available PO\$T reports that show results:

- Time Phased Report
 - > Displays the totals and yearly base year or then year values for a single case
 - Commonly used for creating budget reports, viewing the estimate in a constant year, creating summary-level reports, and viewing risk-adjusted budget reports
- Sand Chart
 - A chart with multiple stacked areas or columns listed by fiscal year
 - Used to view costs graphically by appropriation or any other category
- Delta Report
 - Lets you quickly find changes or differences between two or more cases
 - Often used in highlighting the difference between different versions of the same estimate, comparing the results from different estimates, and determining the high risk elements in the estimate
- RI\$K Chart
 - Cumulative distribution chart that is typically called S-curve chart
 - Used to view the probabilities of a possible cost value
- When setting up the report results view, data can be filtered or summarized via category columns



Sample Time Phased Report

This is a standard Time Phased Report showing the annual phasing results for both Mission Ops Phases (LEO and Lunar)

Results for labor and material are displayed for both parent and child WBS breakdowns

Time Phased Report for Point Estimate in AUC Sample Model.aceit

Costs in BY2009 \$K

Costs in BY2009 \$K

BaseYear -

ALL DATA ARE NOTIONAL

Time Phased Results for Point Estimate

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System Flight Control Operations - Material Cost \$139.293 \$10.000 \$19.469 \$28.388 \$36.758	
Lunar Total Estimate \$22,051.383 \$1,525.000 \$2,970.352 \$4,412.910 \$5,852.714	\$7,290.407
Project Management \$6,354.917 \$475.000 \$873.008 \$1,270.970 \$1,668.922	\$2,067.017
Business Management \$3,118.306 \$225.000 \$424.336 \$623.657 \$822.974	\$1,022.339
Business Management - Labor Costs \$3,000.000 \$200.000 \$400.000 \$600.000 \$800.000	\$1,000.000
Business Management - Material Cost \$118.306 \$25.000 \$24.336 \$23.657 \$22.974	
Mission Operations Administration \$3,236.611 \$250.000 \$448.672 \$647.313 \$845.948	\$1,044.678
Mission Operations Administration - Labor Costs \$3,000.000 \$200.000 \$400.000 \$600.000 \$800.000	\$1,000.000
Mission Operations Administration - Material Cost \$236.611 \$50.000 \$48.672 \$47.313 \$45.948	
Mission Operations \$15,696.466 \$1,050.000 \$2,097.344 \$3,141.940 \$4,183.792	\$5,223.390
Operations Management \$3,139.293 \$210.000 \$419.469 \$628.388 \$836.758	\$1,044.678



Time Phased Report for Point Estimate in AUC Sample Model.aceit

Costs in BY2009 \$K

BaseYear 🔻

Time Phased Results for Point Estimate

ALL DATA ARE NOTIONAL

Sample Time Phased Report

- This is a filtered
 Time Phased
 Report showing
 the annual
 phasing results
 for both Mission
 Ops Phases
 (LEO and
 Lunar)
- Using category columns, only results for material costs are displayed for both parent and child WBS breakdowns

Costs in BY2009 \$K							
WBS, Filtered by Cost Category	Cost Category	Total	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Missioin Ops Total Estimate	Material	\$2,102.766	\$250.000	\$340.704	\$425.820	\$505.429	\$580.813
LEO Total Estimate	Material	\$1,051.383	\$125.000	\$170.352	\$212.910	\$252.714	\$290.407
Project Management	Material	\$354.917	\$75.000	\$73.008	\$70.970	\$68.922	\$67.017
Business Management	Material	\$118.306	\$25.000	\$24.336	\$23.657	\$22.974	\$22.339
Business Management - Material Cost	Material	\$118.306	\$25.000	\$24.336	\$23.657	\$22.974	\$22.339
Mission Operations Administration	Material	\$236.611	\$50.000	\$48.672	\$47.313	\$45.948	\$44.678
Mission Operations Administration - Material Cost	Material	\$236.611	\$50.000	\$48.672	\$47.313	\$45.948	\$44.678
Mission Operations	Material	\$696.466	\$50.000	\$97.344	\$141.940	\$183.792	\$223.390
Operations Management	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Operations Management - Material Cost	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Operations Integration	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Operations Integration - Material Cost	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operations	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operation	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Mission Operations Planning Production and Operations	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Mission Operations Planning Production and Operation		\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
System Flight Control Operations	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
System Flight Control Operations - Material Cost	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Lunar Total Estimate	Material	\$1,051.383	\$125.000	\$170.352	\$212.910	\$252.714	\$290.407
Project Management	Material	\$354.917	\$75.000	\$73.008	\$70.970	\$68.922	\$67.017
Business Management	Material	\$118.306	\$25.000	\$24.336	\$23.657	\$22.974	\$22.339
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Mission Operations Administration - Material Cost	Material	\$236.611	\$50.000	\$48.672	\$47.313	\$45.948	\$44.678
Mission Operations	Material	\$696.466	\$50.000	\$97.344	\$141.940	\$183.792	\$223.390
Operations Management	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Operations Management - Material Cost	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Operations Integration	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Operations Integration - Material Cost	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operations	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operation	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Mission Operations Planning Production and Operations		\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
Mission Operations Planning Production and Operation		\$139.293		\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
System Flight Control Operations	Material	\$139.293		\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
System Flight Control Operations - Material Cost	Material	\$139.293	\$10.000	\$19.469	\$28.388	\$36.758	\$44.678
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Sand Chart for Point Estimate in AUC Sample Model.aceit

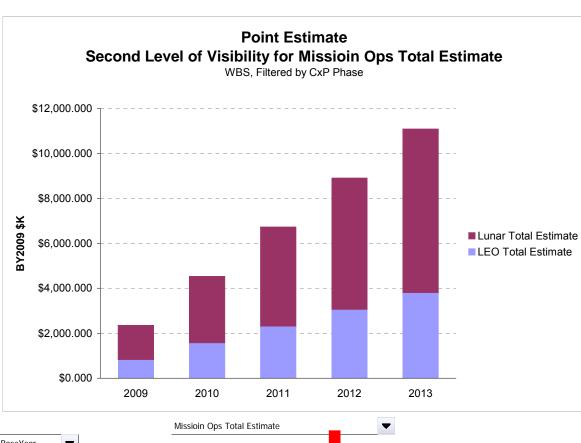
Costs in BY2009 \$K

Sand Chart

ALL DATA ARE NOTIONAL

Sample Sand Chart

- This is a filtered Sand Chart Report showing the annual phasing results for both Mission Ops Phases (LEO and Lunar)
- Using category columns, results are summarized by CxP Phases



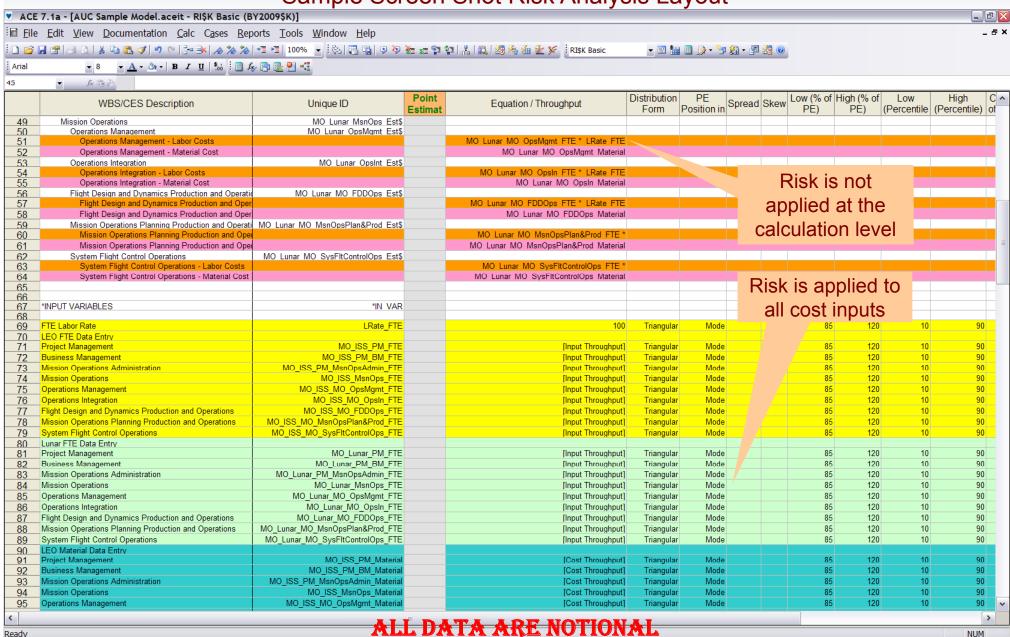
Time Phased Results for Point Estimate Costs in BY2009 \$K WBS, Filtered by CxP Phase CxP Phase 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 Missioin Ops Total Estimate \$4,540.704 \$8,905.429 \$2,350.000 \$6,725.820 \$11,080.813 LEO Total Estimate LEO \$825.000 \$1,570.352 \$2,312.910 \$3,052.714 \$3,790.407 Lunar Total Estimate \$1,525.000 \$2,970.352 \$4,412.910 \$5,852.714 \$7,290.407 Lunar



- To conduct risk analysis, you need uncertainty inputs for your cost elements
 - Probability distribution (e.g. normal, lognormal, triangle, etc.)
 - Bounds
 - Possible low / high values for element (e.g. 85% / 120% of point estimate with distribution percentile at the 10th or 85th percentile
 - General distribution characteristics (e.g. mean, standard deviation)
- Uncertainty inputs should represent defendable values for the cost input
 - Based on historical values
 - Based on subject matter expert (SME) opinions
- Uncertainty entered on input drivers of the estimate
 - Labor rates
 - Headcounts
 - Material and labor costs



Sample Screen Shot Risk Analysis Layout

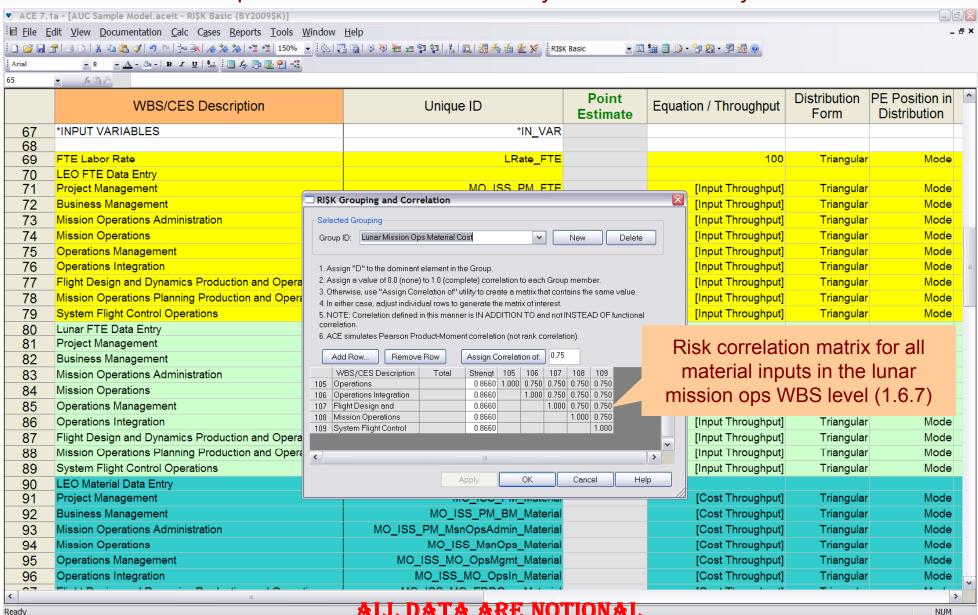




- Correlations between values should be addressed if they are not functionally related
 - When the values of two variables depend on each other, you should correlate them to increase the accuracy of your risk analysis results
 - Two behaviors of correlation:
 - Positive Indicates that two assumptions increase or decrease together
 - Negative Indicates that an increase in one assumption results in a decrease in the other assumption
 - Cost elements that are often correlated:
 - Labor rates among similar job positions
 - Material costs among similar parts in a product
- In bottom-up cost estimating, it is always a best practice to apply correlation for a better risk distribution at the very top level



Sample Screen Shot of Risk Analysis Correlation Layout



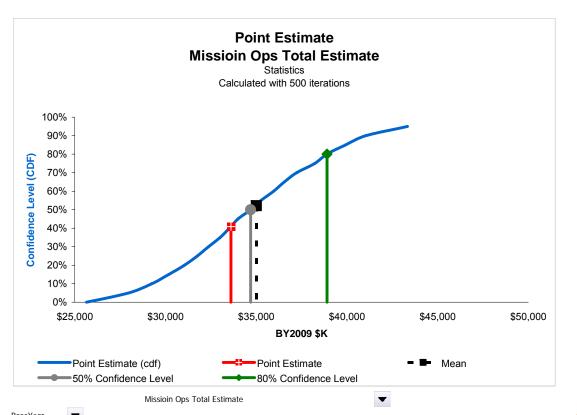


RI\$K Chart for Point Estimate in AUC Sample Model.aceit

Costs in \$K (BY2009 Total), 500 iterations

ALL DATA ARE NOTIONAL

RI\$K Chart



Sample RI\$K Chart

S Curve shows that the there is a 41% chance that the total Mission Operations cost will come in under our point estimate.

RI\$K Statistics in 5% intervals

Cumulative Distribution Function	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%
Cost Values	\$25,640.764	\$27,955.515	\$29,241.809	J,174.301	\$31,039.849	\$31,747.941	\$32,376.000	\$33,017.683	\$33,517.543

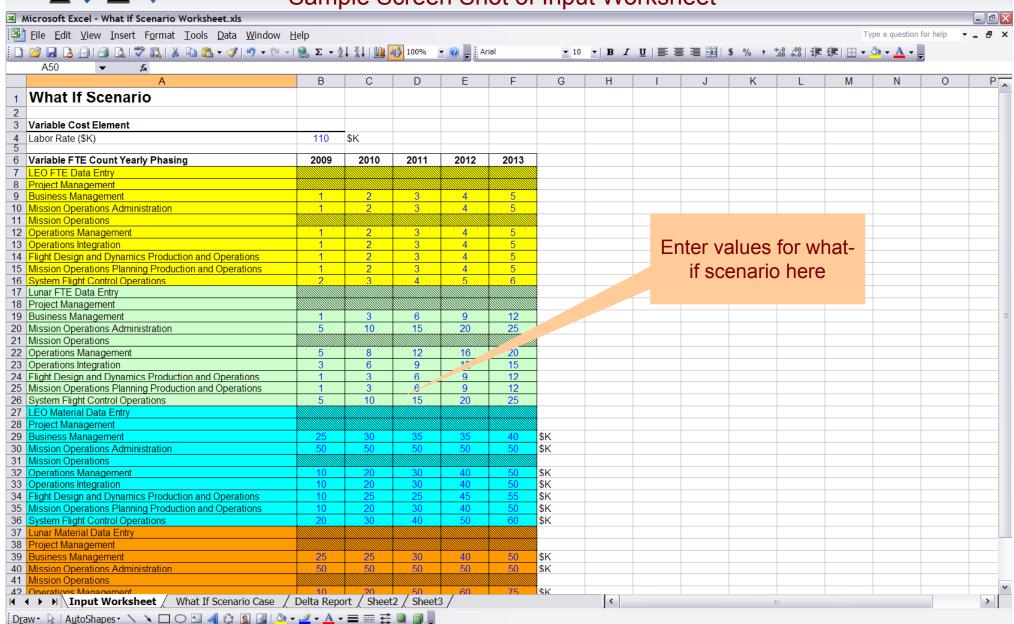
Markers	Cost	Confidence
Point Estimate	\$33,602.766	40.9%
Mean	\$35,007.954	52.2%
50% Confidence Level	\$34,693.983	50.0%
80% Confidence Level	\$38,902.091	80.0%



- ACEIT can help non-cost modelers run what-if scenarios using your existing cost model
 - Create a what-if input worksheet where variable cost elements (e.g. labor rate, FTE headcount, material cost etc.) can be organized and modified
 - Create a PO\$T case in a new worksheet that is linked to existing bottom-up ACE cost model
 - PO\$T will add a "Calculate" macro button on top of worksheet
 - This worksheet will look like a simplified copy of your ACE model
 - Link input cells in PO\$T case worksheet to corresponding cells in what –if input worksheet
 - Create required PO\$T reports using this case
 - Adjust variable cost elements per what-if scenario guidance
 - Hit "Calculate" button
 - Use PO\$T to update reports

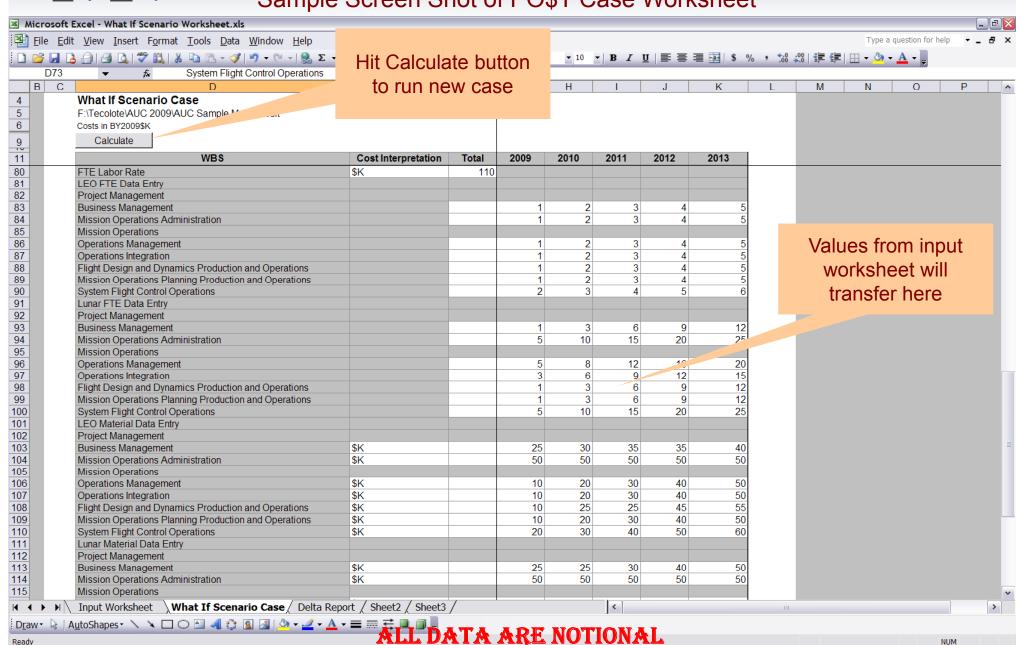


Sample Screen Shot of Input Worksheet





Sample Screen Shot of PO\$T Case Worksheet



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Sample Delta Report

- This is a Delta Report showing the difference between the Point Estimate (baseline) results and the new What If Scenario at the total levels
- Report will categorize the deltas into high, medium, or low percentage differences
- Percentage differences will be highlighted in red, orange, or tan for high, medium, or low, respectively

Delta Report for AUC Sample Model.aceit

BaseYear

Costs in BY2009 \$K

Delta Comparison

ALL DATA ARE NOTIONAL

	Costs in BY2009 \$K					
	WBS	Point Estimate	What If Scenario Case	Delta (Δ)	Percent Δ	Threshold
	Missioin Ops Total Estimate	\$33,602.766		\$46,777.234	139.21%	High
	LEO Total Estimate	\$11,551.383		\$28,943.617	250.56%	High
9	Project Management	\$3,354.917		\$9,120.083	271.84%	High
┙	Business Management	\$1,618.306		\$2,126.694	131.41%	High
	Business Management - Labor Costs	\$1,500.000		\$2,020.000	134.67%	High
	Business Management - Material Cost	\$1,500.000	\$3,320.000		90.19%	High
	Mission Operations Administration	\$1,736.611		\$6,993.389	402.70%	
	Mission Operations Administration - Labor Costs	\$1,730.011		\$6,970.000	464.67%	High
	Mission Operations Administration - Labor Costs Mission Operations Administration - Material Cost	\$236.611	\$260.000	\$23.389	9.88%	High Medium
	Mission Operations Mission Operations	\$8,196.466		\$19,823.534	241.85%	High
ے	Operations Management	\$1,639.293		\$5,295.707	323.05%	
T	Operations Management - Labor Costs	\$1,500.000		\$5,295.707	354.67%	High
-1		\$1,500.000	\$6,620.000 \$115.000			High
ll' I	Operations Management - Material Cost				(17.44%)	High
`	Operations Integration	\$1,639.293		\$3,570.707	217.82%	High
	Operations Integration - Labor Costs	\$1,500.000		\$3,560.000	237.33%	High
	Operations Integration - Material Cost	\$139.293	\$150.000		7.69%	Medium
	Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operations	\$1,639.293		\$2,030.707	123.88%	High
- 1	Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operations - Labor Costs	\$1,500.000		\$2,020.000	134.67%	High
	Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operations- Material Cost	\$139.293	\$150.000	\$10.707	7.69%	Medium
	Mission Operations Planning Production and Operations	\$1,639.293		\$2,055.707	125.40%	High
	Mission Operations Planning Production and Operations - Labor Costs	\$1,500.000		\$2,020.000	134.67%	High
	Mission Operations Planning Production and Operations - Material Cost	\$139.293	\$175.000		25.63%	High
	System Flight Control Operations	\$1,639.293		\$6,870.707	419.13%	High
	System Flight Control Operations - Labor Costs	\$1,500.000		\$6,860.000	457.33%	High
	System Flight Control Operations - Material Cost	\$139.293	\$150.000		7.69%	Medium
	Lunar Total Estimate	\$22,051.383		\$17,833.617	80.87%	High
	Project Management	\$6,354.917		\$5,725.083	90.09%	High
	Business Management	\$3,118.306	\$3,580.000		14.81%	High
	Business Management - Labor Costs	\$3,000.000	\$3,410.000		13.67%	High
	Business Management - Material Cost	\$118.306	\$170.000		43.70%	High
	Mission Operations Administration	\$3,236.611		\$5,263.389	162.62%	High
	Mission Operations Administration - Labor Costs	\$3,000.000	\$8,250.000		175.00%	High
	Mission Operations Administration - Material Cost	\$236.611	\$250.000	\$13.389	5.66%	Medium
	Mission Operations	\$15,696.466		\$12,108.534	77.14%	High
	Operations Management	\$3,139.293		\$3,785.707	120.59%	High
	Operations Management - Labor Costs	\$3,000.000		\$3,710.000	123.67%	High
	Operations Management - Material Cost	\$139.293	\$215.000		54.35%	High
	Operations Integration	\$3,139.293		\$2,025.707	64.53%	High
	Operations Integration - Labor Costs	\$3,000.000		\$1,950.000	65.00%	High
	Operations Integration - Material Cost	\$139.293	\$215.000		54.35%	High
	Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operations	\$3,139.293	\$3,625.000		15.47%	High
	Flight Design and Dynamics Production and Operations - Labor Costs	\$3,000.000	\$3,410.000	\$410.000	13.67%	High



Summary

- ACEIT is a very flexible cost estimating tool that can handle all kinds of bottom-up cost estimating situations
- ACEIT suite integrates statistical and risk analysis tools to quantify uncertainty in estimates
- Can be used by non cost modelers to support what-if scenario analysis after the model has already been constructed