

Automated Cost Estimator (ACE) Overview

April 2014

Version 7.4



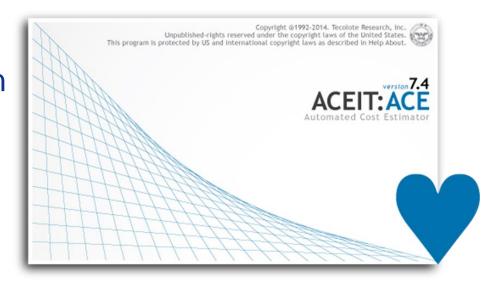
Tecolote Research, Inc.



ACE is an Estimating Platform

Platform

- What is ACE?
 - Framework to build models
 - Calculation engine to compute/process information
- ACE files (sessions)
 contain user-developed
 cost estimate
 - Methodology
 - Documentation
 - Inputs
 - Integrated uncertainty analysis

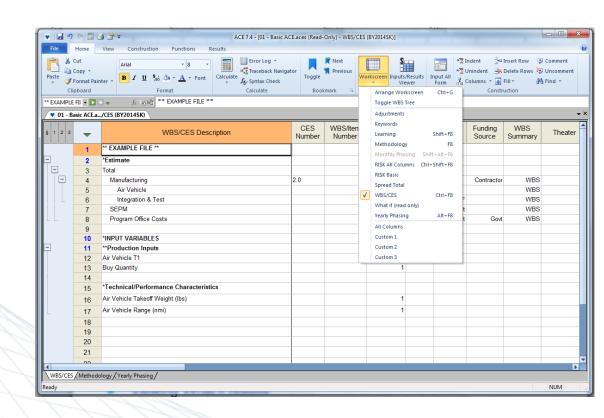


Create risk adjusted, integrated cost/schedule life cycle estimates for any project!



Workscreens Provide a Filtered View of an ACE Session

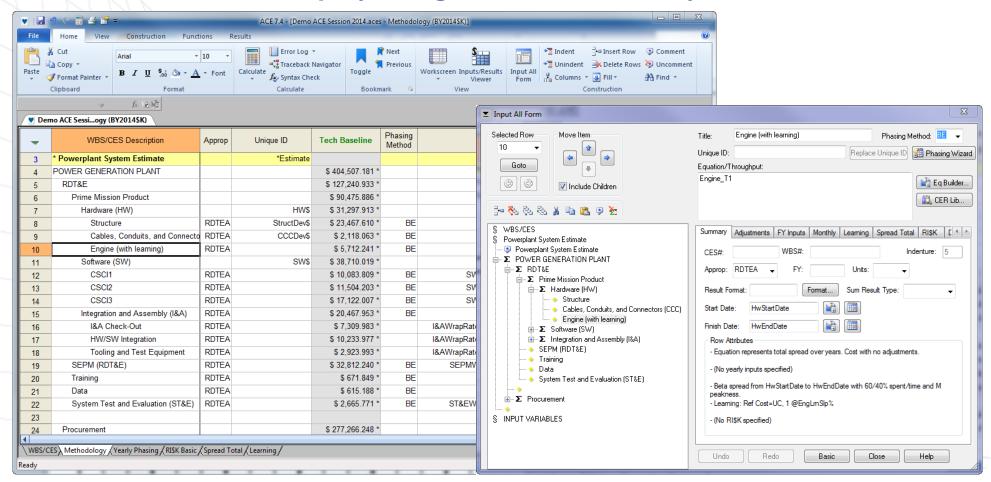
- Each workscreen shows only the relevant fields supporting specific functions involved in building a cost estimate
 - Building a WBS/CES
 - Implementing methodologies
 - Adjusting for FY, dollar units, Fee, Overhead, G&A
 - Applying learning curve theory
 - Time phasing the estimate (Annual and Monthly)
 - Incorporating a risk analysis
 - Viewing What if results
 - Entering documentation





Results are Automatically Summed Based on Element Hierarchy

- ACE uses an indenture structure to sum elements, thereby ensuring proper calculation
 - Add/remove elements when the WBS changes without need to redo summing equations
- Tools available to simplify navigation and data entry

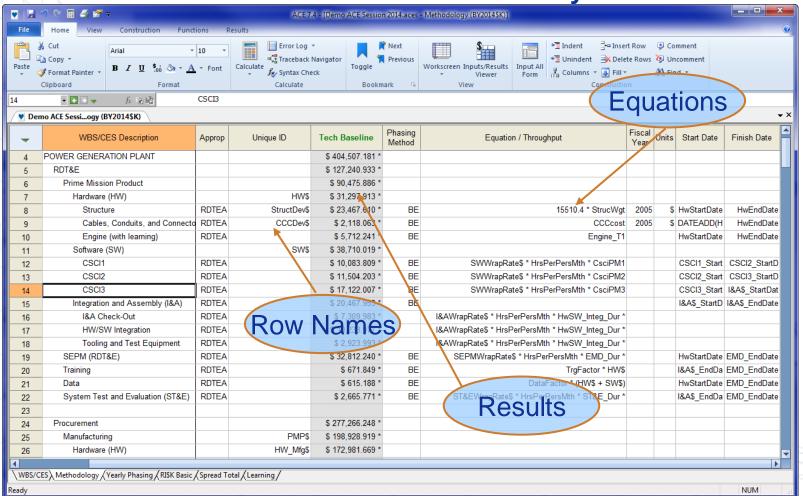




Equations / Data Entered into Specific Fields

- Specific columns are used to enter equations and annual data
- Data is referenced by naming of rows / columns by Unique IDs

All data used for the estimate is immediately visible

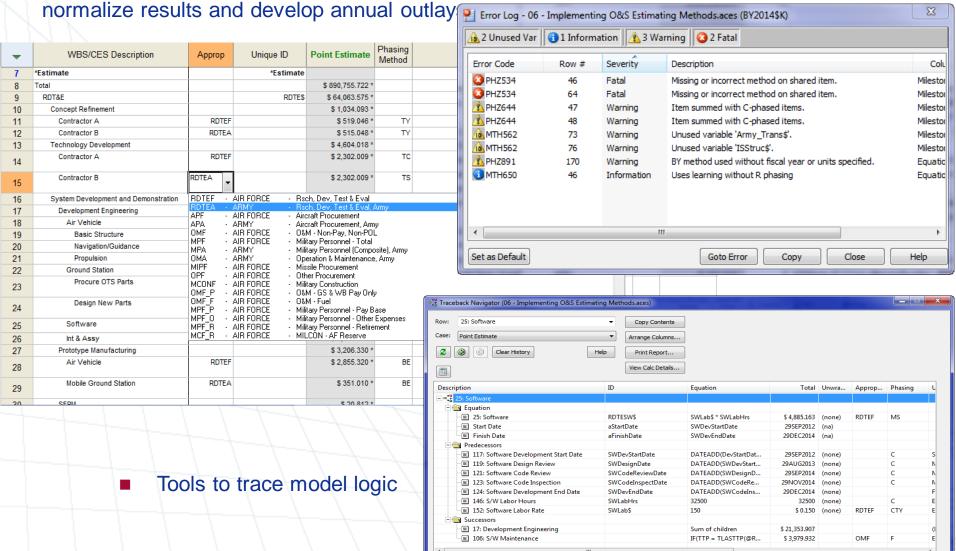




Standard Methods / Techniques to Ensure Reliable Calculations

Integrated inflation indices to correctly

Logs to show potential estimate errors





Built-in ACE Functions

- ACE offers several types of built-in functions to automate relationships between elements in an ACE session:
 - Mathematical
 - Date
 - Economic Analysis
 - Time Period (operate on specific yearly or monthly inputs or results)
 - ACE Specific
 - Inflation
 - Logic and Mathematical
 - Matrix
 - Operational Life
 - RI\$K



Functions for specific cost estimating calculations

- Several functions automatically calculate common cost estimating operations
- For example, many cost elements are calculated based on the number of Operational Fielded Units in any given year. The OpFieldedUnits() function calculates operational fielded units in each year based on a buy schedule, fielding lag and life expectancy.

Example:

		POINT EQ/			FY	FY	FY	FY
WBS/CES	UNIQUE ID	ESTIMATE	THROUGHPUT	PM	2015	2016	2017	2018
			OpFieldedUnits(@BQ,OpLife,					
Fielded Units		96	LaginYears)	F				
*Inputs								
Procurement			110					
Units	BQ	24	[Input Throughputs]	IS	6	8	10	
Operational								
Life	OpLife	4	4	С				
Lag in Years	LagInYears	1	1	С				

Results:

WBS/CES	POINT ESTIMATE	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Fielded Units	96		6	6+8=14	6+8+10=24	6+8+10=24	8+10=18	10



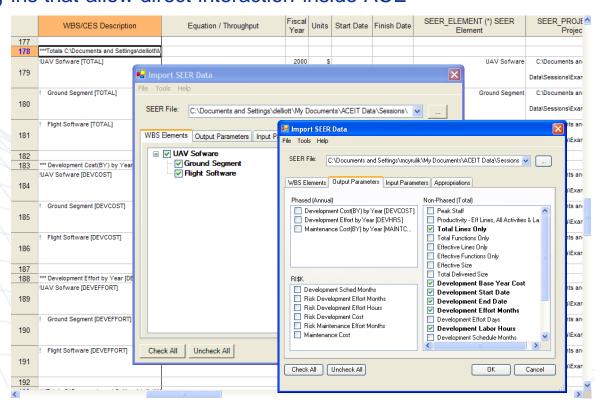
Open Platform Allows Integration with 3rd Party Applications

- Multiple methods for integration with other applications
 - Direct export to .rtf and.txt file formats
 - ACE results integrate with Excel through POST
 - ACE clipboard allows dynamic data export/import from/to an ACE session
 - ACE API enables
 - Ability to embed ACE sessions into other tools
 - Ability to create plug-ins that allow direct interaction inside ACE

Current ACE plug-ins

Getting data into ACE

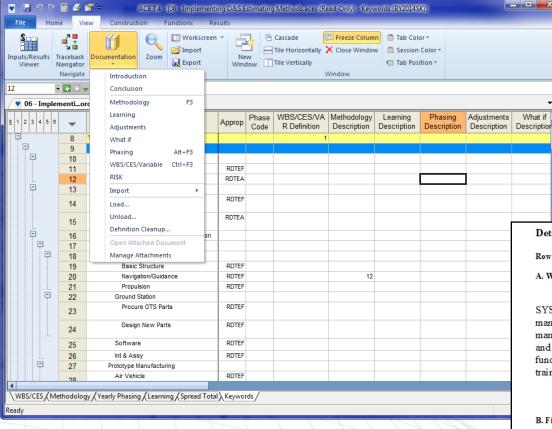
- ACE-to-ACE
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Project
- Price
- SEER





Full Estimate Documentation

Capability



Documentation can be imported via:

- RTF and MS Word files
- Copy and Paste Commands

Documentation Available via:

- Input All Form
- Narrative Report
- MS-Word Document

Detailed Basis of Estimate

Row 00016 SEPM \$ 27.065.488 FY 2006 \$K

A. WBS Definition (ID: 5)

SYSTEM ENGINEERING/PROGRAM MANAGEMENT - The system engineering/program management element refers to integration of the system from a technical and business management control standpoint. This element encompasses the planning, directing, controlling, and integrating the definition, development and production of the system/program including the functions of logistics and logistics support, maintenance support, facilities, personnel and training, and testing and activation of a system.

B. Fiscal Year Phasing Results (FY2006 \$K)

FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	Total
\$3,866.5	\$3,866.5	\$7,733.0	\$7,733.0	\$3,866.5	\$27,065.5

C. E stimating Methodology (Equation/Throughput Calculated Yearly and Summed)

0.37 * PMP\$

C.1. Methodology Rationale (ID: 9)

DEVELOPMENT COST FACTOR - System/Project Management (S/PM)

DESCRIPTION - Estimates Development System/Project Management cost as a percent of Development Prime Mission Product (PMP) cost. This factor was updated August 1998.

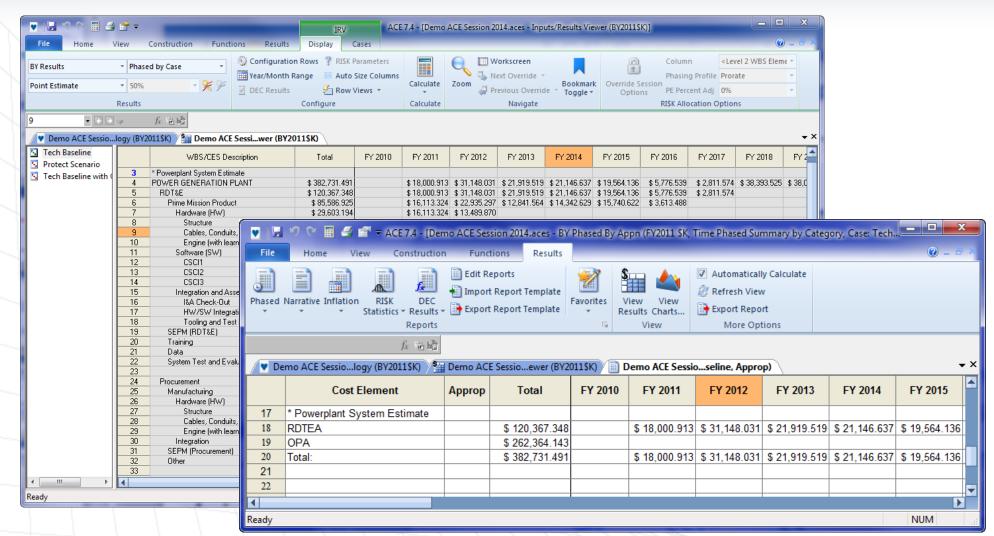
SOURCE DATA - An analysis was made of 200 CPRs and C/SSRs stored in ACEIT's

Analysts can document in real time:

- WBS
- Methodology
- Phasing
- Risk
- Adjustments



Quick Access to Estimate Results

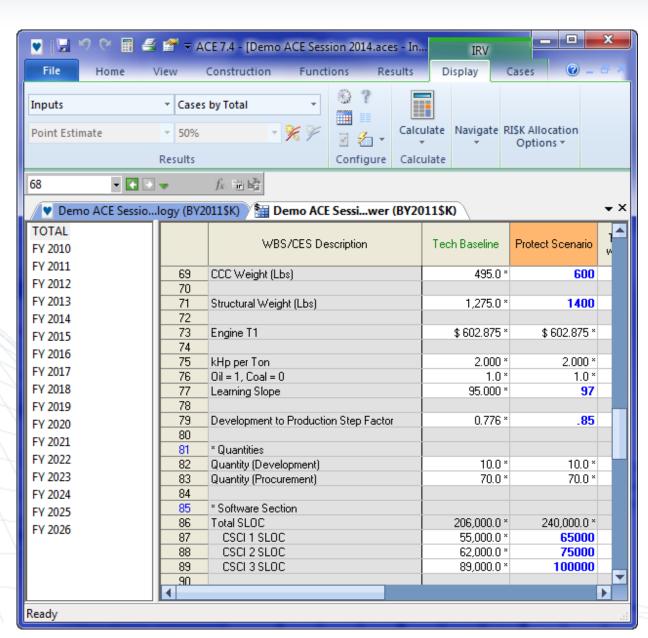


- Time-Phased Base Year and Then Year results can be quickly generated
- Estimated costs can be "racked and stacked" by various breakouts (Appropriation, Funding Agency, Contract Line Item, Job Order Number, Budget Line Item, etc.)



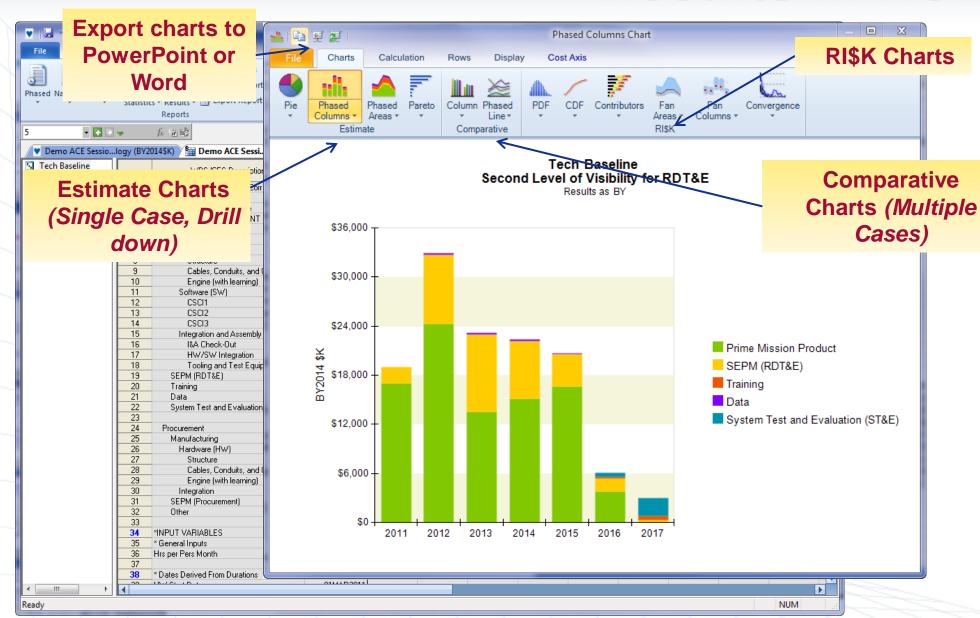
Baselines can be Established as Basis for Scenario Evaluation

- Main methodologies are basis for all calculations
- Add an unlimited number of alternative scenarios (what if cases)
- Scenarios are enabled by overriding methodology equations and/or input variables (total or yearly)
- Supporting documentation, reports, time-phased (BY or TY) and risk results can be created for any scenario
- Cost Benefit Analysis calculations can be added to the session and evaluated for each alternative





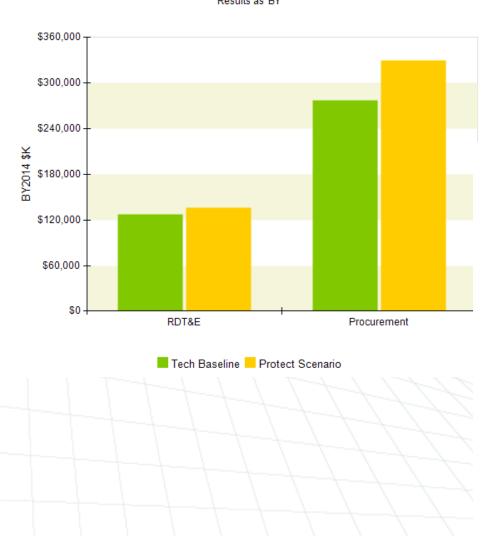
Graphically ViewResults in ACE





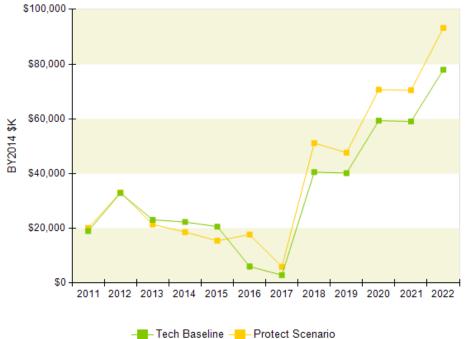
Graphical Outputs to Compare What-if Cases

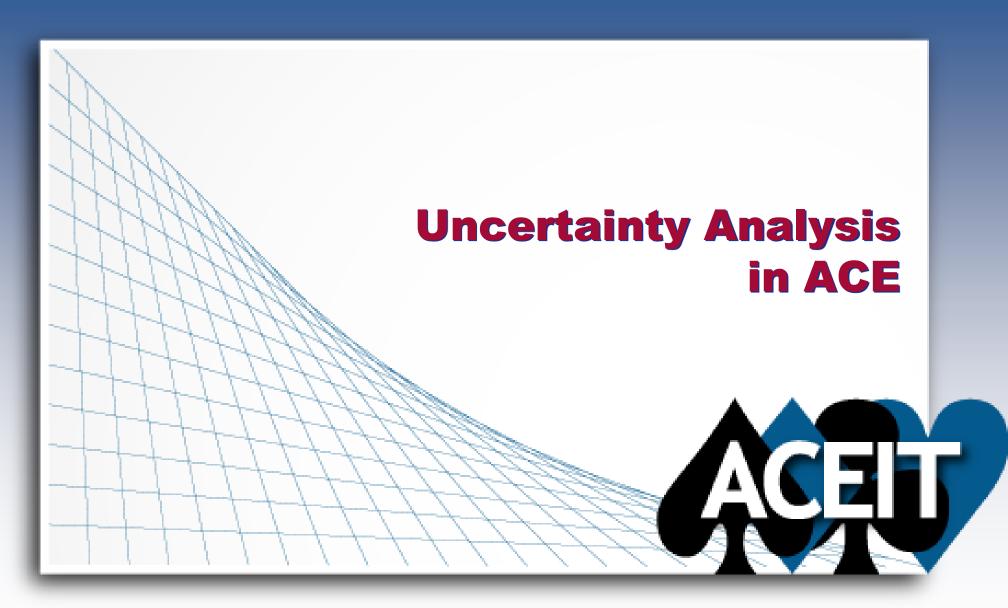
Multiple cases Second Level of Visibility for POWER GENERATION PLANT Results as BY



Multiple cases POWER GENERATION PLANT

Results as BY







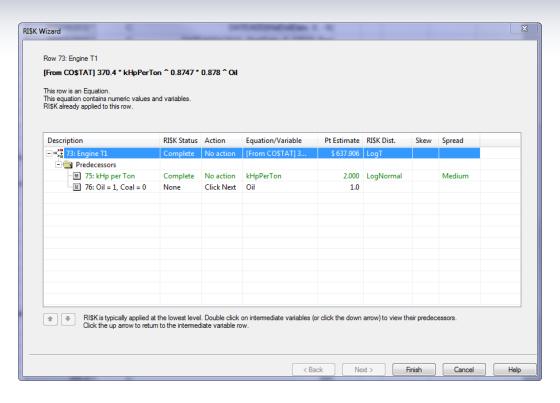
What Does an Estimator Need to Perform Uncertainty Analysis?

- Ability to apply uncertainty throughout the estimate
 - Estimating Methodology (CERs)
 - Configuration (inputs)
 - Technical / Schedule
 - Discrete events
 - Correlate uncertainties
 - Sensitive to risk mitigation plans
- Method to generate a defendable estimate of the overall uncertainty
- Ability to adjust the point estimate to a desired confidence level and to control how the risk dollars will be phased
- Charts/tables to present estimate uncertainty

ACEIT

RI\$K Wizard

- RI\$K Wizard. Designed for new analysts, provides easy-to-follow screens that apply RI\$K distributions to the estimate
 - The wizard gives guidance on whether uncertainty should be specified:
 - on the current row
 - and/or on the variables
 - or not recommended for that type of methodology

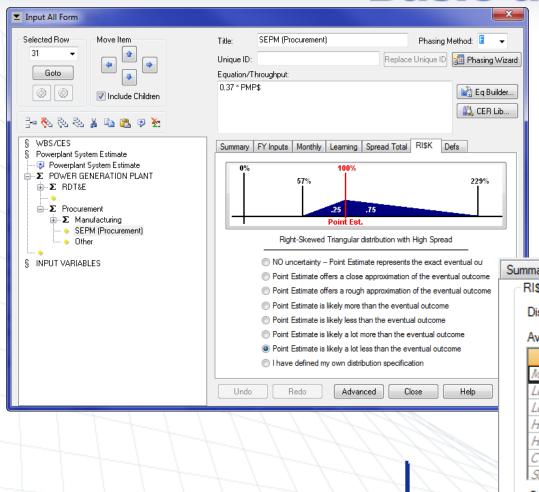


- Easy-to-understand options help the analyst characterize the uncertainty
- The wizard also displays any rows or variables feeding into the current row and shows if they already have uncertainty specified. The analyst is given the opportunity to specify uncertainty on these rows also.
- **NOTE:** Advanced analysts will most likely continue to use the Advanced mode of the Input All form or the RI\$K workscreens to enter uncertainty.



Input All Forma

Basic and Advanced Mode

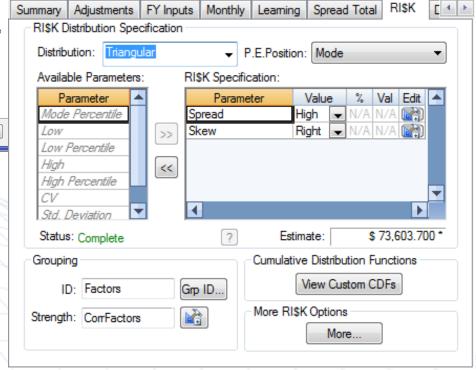


Basic mode:

- Provides descriptive choices for specifying uncertainty
- · Diagram changes based on selection

Advanced mode:

- · Guides you through valid parameter choice
- · Status tells you when the specification is Complete





Uncertainty Specification

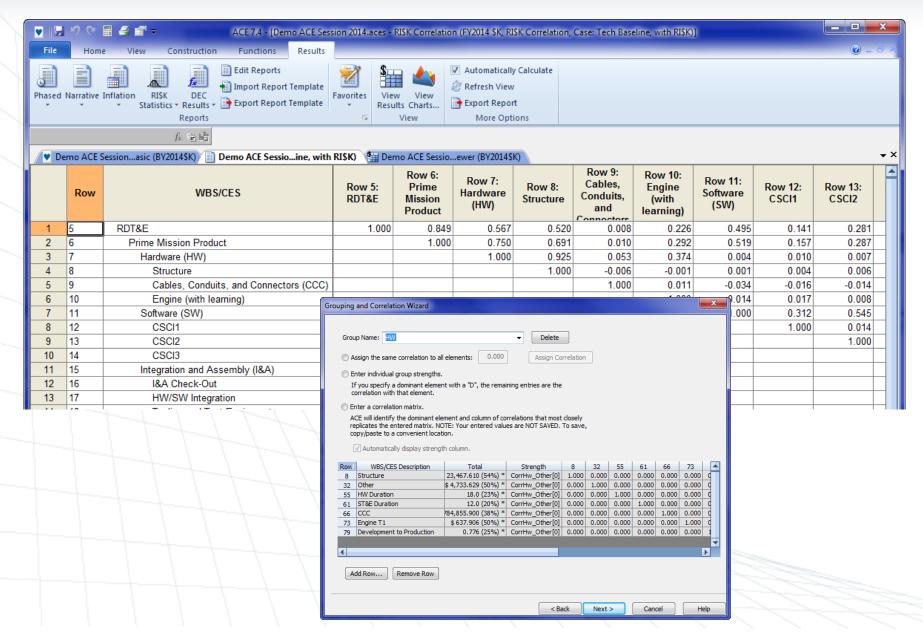
- Apply uncertainty to cost methods and cost drivers
- All uncertainty specifications available at a glance:
 - RI\$K Spec: Review or edit entire specification for that row
 - Distribution: Select shape (Normal, Log-normal, Student's t, Log-t, Triangular, Uniform, Beta, BetaPERT, Weibull, or user-defined CDF)
 - Spread/Skew: Assign default dispersion, or
 - Define dispersion: low/high as a value or % of PE, Stdev, CV, others
 - **Group**: apply correlation
 - RI\$K On/Off: Control RI\$K distributions used in the simulation

_			1-1	15 15 31									
73 🔻 💃 🖺 🤧 Form=Log-t, PE=Median, High*=126.16, High%=95.0000, DF=14.0000, GrpID=HW, GrpStr=CorrHw_Other, Seed=1606972													
	Demo Ace Sessimns (BY2011\$K)												
		WBS/CES	ID	Tech Baseline	Eq / Thruput	RI\$K Spec	Group	Strength	Dist	PE Pos			
	73	Engine T1	Engine_T1	\$ 602.875 *	[From CO\$TAT] 370.4 * kHpPerTon ^ 0.8747 * 0.878 ^ Oil			CorrHw_ Other		Median			
	74												
	75	kHp per Ton	kHpPerTon	2.000 *	2	Form=lognormal,			lognormal	Median			
	76	Oil = 1, Coal = 0	Oil	1.0 *	1								
	77	Learning Slope	EngLrnSlp	95.000 *	95								
<	Methodology / What if (read only) / Spread Total / Yearly Phasing / RI\$K Basic / Learning \ RI\$K All Columns / Keywords /												
7													



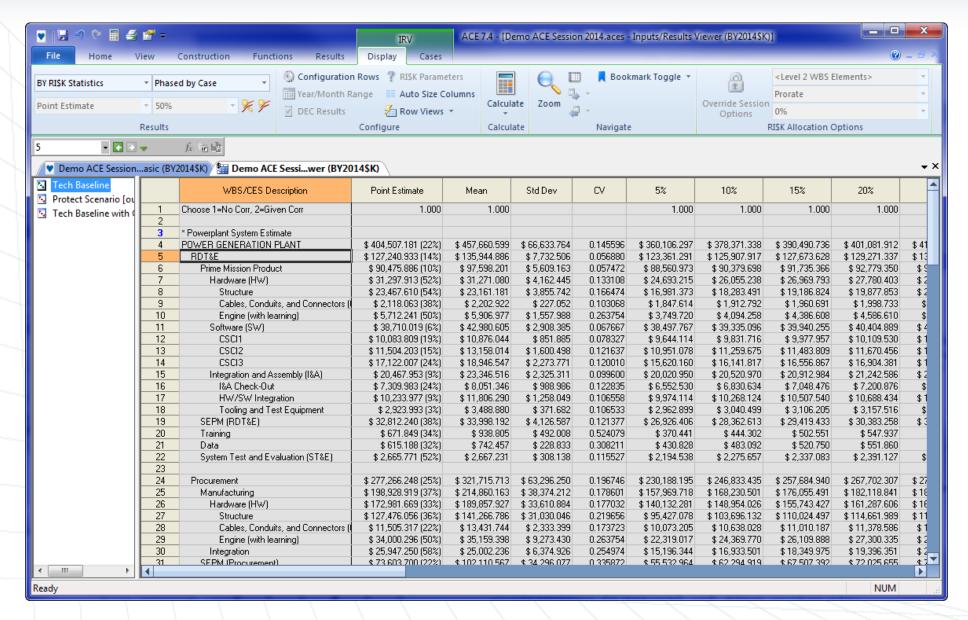
Correlation can be Assessed and

Modeled



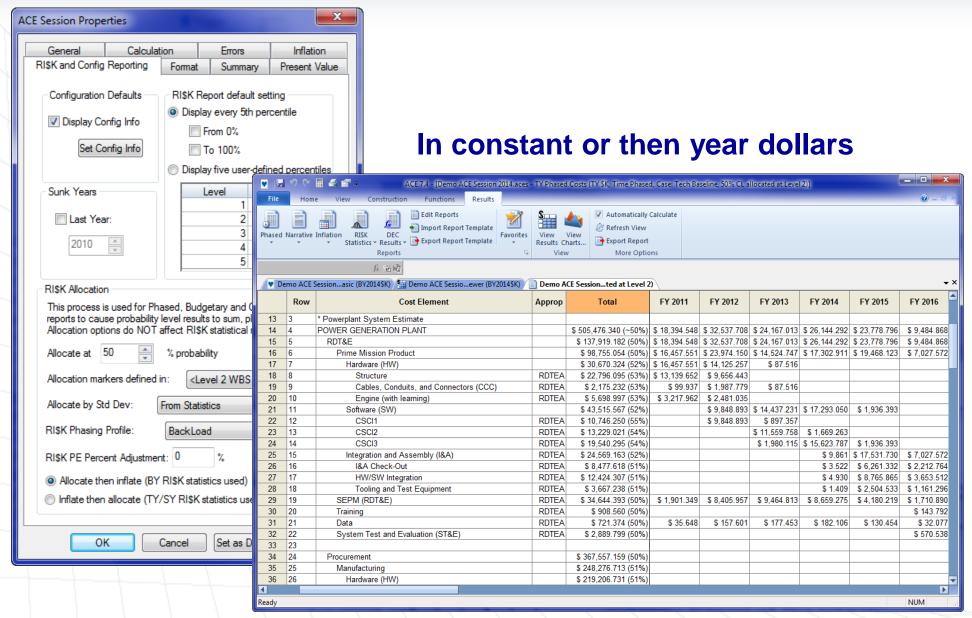


Risk Statistics Easily Available



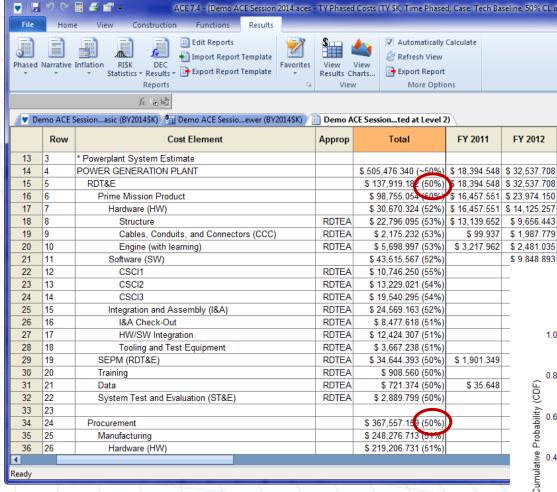


Estimates can be Adjusted to Desired Confidence Levels





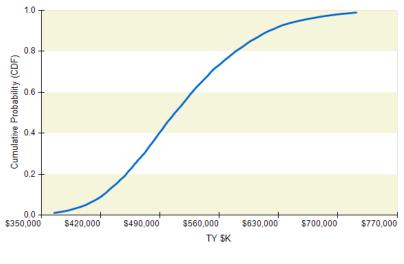
TY RI\$K Results



- TY time phased RI\$K results allocated at specified confidence level from a specified level in the WBS
- In this case, 50% from 2nd level, meaning RDT&E and Procurement are the 50% statistical results, remaining levels adjusted to sum

Tech Baseline POWER GENERATION PLANT

Results as TY Actual Statistics Calculated with 7000 iterations, CV = 0.150

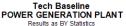


Tech Baseline

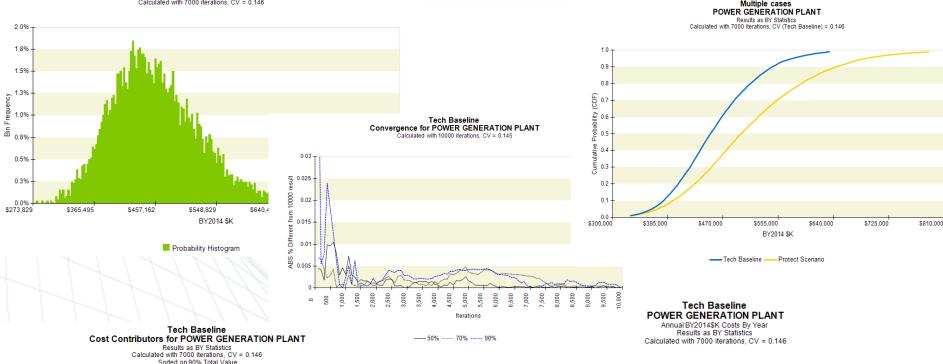
TY RI\$K cumulative distribution curve

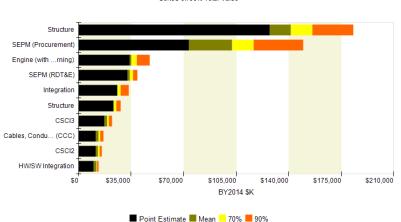


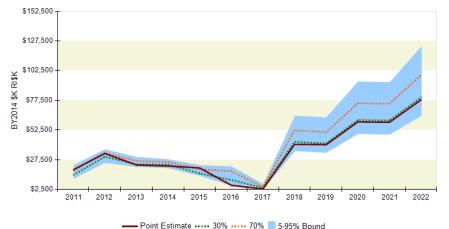
Graphical Outputs to Present Uncertainty Results



Calculated with 7000 iterations, CV = 0.146









Benefits of Using ACEIT are Substantial

Implements standardized process and increases estimate quality

- Supports development of consistent, systematic, and defendable Life Cycle Cost Estimates
- Delivers integrated, automated documentation, with complete audit trail
- Improves estimate review and verification process through consistent model structure
- Contains industry approved algorithms and databases to model inflation, learning, and phasing
- Integrates statistical and risk analysis to quantify uncertainty in estimates
- Enhances quality by eliminating many errors often made in spreadsheets (which frequently go undetected)

Provides flexibility to model any system type

- Unlimited flexibility to model any type of system linking all life cycle phases and facilitate any type of Analysis of Alternatives
- Huge variety of automated and customizable reports

Integrates with other applications through an open platform

- Ability to link to virtually any other tool
- Robust Application Programming Interface (API) to facilitate electronic interaction

Reduces management challenges

- Structured modeling platform shortens time for ACE users to learn a new model
- Eases organization-wide distribution of key standards (WBS, inflation, etc.)
- Empowers the analysts to answer Key Program/Project Management questions