

Frequently Asked Questions

What is DSO/Upstream?

DSO/Upstream is an interactive planning and scheduling solution for optimizing oil and gas exploration and production activities. It incorporates a drag-and-drop Gantt chart interface, together with data management capabilities, that make it easy to develop and manage complex operational plans and schedules that are aligned with your business objectives.

DSO/Upstream may be used for a wide variety of onshore and offshore upstream operations, where resources—such as rigs, cranes, barges, trucks, and crews—must be assigned to activities, including drilling, completions, workovers, tie-ins, logging, maintenance, and fracturing.

What's the advantage of using DSO/Upstream over MS-Excel and MS-Project?

DSO/Upstream eliminates the need for error-prone manual data entry and un-auditable collections of spreadsheets and project files. Instead, your equipment and well activity information is centralized in DSO/Upstream's database, which is specifically designed to handle upstream activities, and that is accessible by multiple users.

As well, DSO/Upstream incorporates an operational model of the upstream operational environment, together with the fastest optimization engine in the industry. This enables you to

- Automatically assign rigs, other equipment, and crews to exploration and production activities in an optimal sequence, rapidly and reliably;
- Interactively adjust your schedules to reflect operational changes and disruptions, using the drag-and-drop Gantt-based interface;
- Optimize your results so that they are always aligned with important objectives, such as cost, production output, and equipment utilization;
- Collaborate effectively with your colleagues, using a consolidated operational model that's focused on corporate objectives;
- Create and evaluate multiple plan/schedule scenarios very rapidly, so that you can select the optimal alternative.

What data does DSO/Upstream require?

DSO/Upstream incorporates an operational model that accommodates a wide range of data about your upstream operations, and incorporates this data into your planning and scheduling work. At the same time, many organizations do not require such extensive data management capabilities, and use a subset of the DSO/Upstream operational model. The minimum data needed to use DSO/Upstream effectively is:

About Actenum Corporation

Actenum Corporation is a global software company that provides advanced planning and scheduling solutions to the upstream energy sector. By simplifying and improving the process of assigning resources to activities, we enable our customers to enhance performance, and increase efficiency and profit.

Actenum Corporation

520 - 1385 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6H 3V9 Canada

+1.604.681.1262
www.actenum.com

- Approximate durations of activities
- Information about the equipment or crew resources, such as working calendars, environmental restrictions, and precedences
- A way to determine what resources are compatible with an activity
- A way to approximate the travel time between activities (only if this is of interest)
- A way to measure the quality of the resulting plan or schedule; this might include measures of cost, resource use, production targets, priorities, deadline violations, and so on.

How do I load data into DSO/Upstream?

You can load data into DSO/Upstream manually, or automatically.

Most electronic forms of data are loaded automatically: DSO/Upstream can load MS-Excel and MS-Project files directly, for example. For data that's stored in external relational databases, Actenum provides a connector for import and export purposes.

When a plan or schedule is ready for operational use, how can I export it?

For each plan or schedule, DSO/Upstream generates a Gantt chart representation as a customizable PDF file; this can be distributed in various ways or published on a corporate intranet.

DSO/Upstream also provides an export capability that generates MS-Excel spreadsheets, and can be integrated with external databases for export purposes, using a connector provided by Actenum.

How can DSO/Upstream be adapted to my company's workflow and business process?

DSO/Upstream has been designed as a flexible application with an open architecture for ease of adaptation and integration. It may be used as a stand-alone application for management of plans and schedules (replacing other tools such as MS-Excel), or it may be integrated into an existing business process through the available data interchange facilities. You can rapidly and effectively configure the software to meet your operational needs, and take advantage of available data.

What reporting capability does DSO/Upstream provide?

DSO/Upstream includes a report-writer that enables you to build custom reports that meet your specific requirements. DSO/Upstream's database also supports the use of other common reporting tools, such as Business Objects. As well, data may also be exported to other applications, such as MS-Project and MS-Excel, for reporting purposes.



How is DSO/Upstream deployed?

DSO/Upstream is typically deployed as a standalone application on a user's desktop or laptop computer. The DSO/Upstream database may be installed locally or on a server where it is accessible by other users, using Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, or MySQL.

DSO/Upstream may also be deployed using Java WebStart, and can be implemented in Citrix environments.

How do I get started with DSO/Upstream?

Prior to deployment, Actenum typically conducts a two day Configuration/Integration (CI) Workshop with you to determine specific configuration and customization requirements that you may have, as well as to explore integration with external applications for data import and export purposes.

Following the CI Workshop, Actenum then prepares DSO/Upstream for your initial use, and deploys the software to your user community. During the initial use period, Actenum works with you to ensure that your data is imported successfully, and to conduct user and administrator training.

What training is needed to use DSO/Upstream?

Getting started with DSO/Upstream is intuitive for most users who are familiar with other planning or scheduling applications. Actenum provides an initial five day training program for users, which is usually conducted at the time of the initial software deployment. At the same time, a short training class for application administrators is usually scheduled.

How often are updates to DSO/Upstream released?

Typically there is one major DSO/Upstream release each year, which provides new features and support for new operating systems and database platforms. Smaller releases or patches are usually provided to address other issues as they arise.

Does Actenum provide technical support?

Support for DSO/Upstream is available to users around the clock, seven days a week by telephone or email.

What hardware and software is needed to run DSO/Upstream?

Client Workstations

- 2 GHz Pentium CPU
- minimum 1 GB RAM, 40+ GB hard drive
- 100 Mb network connection to server
- MS Windows XP/Vista/Windows 7
- Actenum applications may be deployed using Java Web Start, with Java Runtime Environment 1.5, Internet Explorer 4 and higher, and Mozilla web browsers.

- Java Web Start is configurable to run on web servers such as Apache, BEA Weblogic, Microsoft IIS, etc. The recommended version for an Apache Server is Apache 2.2.4.

Database Server

- Microsoft SQL Server 2000, 2005
- Oracle 8i or higher
- MySQL 3.23 or higher

How can I learn more about DSO/Upstream

To speak to an Actenum representative, or to schedule a demonstration, please contact us at +1.604.681.1262, or info@actenum.com.

Copyright 2011, Actenum Corporation

