

## Characteristics of project

A project can generally be defined by its characteristics where the following apply.

- **It involves a single, definable purpose, product or result.**
- **It usually has defined constraints or targets** in terms of cost, schedule (time), and performance requirements
- **It uses skills and talents from multiple professions and organizations.**

Projects often involve advanced technology and rely on task interdependencies that may introduce new and unique problems. Task and skill requirements vary from project to project

- **It is unique.** A project is generally a one-off activity that is never repeated exactly. Generally, one piece of impact damage will be unique.
- **It is somewhat unfamiliar.** It may encompass new technology and hence possess significant elements of uncertainty and risk. Failure of the project might jeopardize the organization or its goals.
- **It is a temporary activity.** It is undertaken to accomplish a goal within a given period of time; once the goal is achieved, the project ceases to exist.
- **It is part of the process involved in working to achieve a goal.** During the process, a project passes through several distinct phases; as a result, tasks, people, organizational structure; and resources change as the project moves from one phase to the next. Projects usually have clear start and finish points. In the case of the aircraft repair, there will be an inspection, an appraisal, a solution, implementation, finalization and testing.
- **It is part of an interlinked process.** Projects are very rarely carried out in isolation. There is usually some interlinking between different projects that are being run by any particular organization.
- **It is generally of secondary importance to the organization.** Projects are generally not the primary objective of the organization. There are exceptions such as pure research and development organizations and companies that are established purely to plan and execute a single project.
- **It is relatively complex.** Projects involve multidisciplinary teams and have defined aims and objectives. In organizational terms they therefore tend to be relatively complex as compared to the standard functional processes that operate within the organization.