The stories that appear in ASK are written by "best of the best" project managers, primarily from NASA, but also from other government agencies and industry. Who better than a project manager to help another project manager address a critical issue on a project? Most project managers have an abundance of stories to share. In fact, everyone who has worked on projects sooner or later develops a repertoire, ranging from brief anecdotes to ongoing sagas. In ASK, these invaluable lessons learned are captured and passed on.

ASK Magazine operates on the premise that project management involves far more variables than can be addressed by textbook prescriptions or lists of do's and don'ts. Only stories can convey the complexity and nuances of the decisions a project manager has to make.

In addition to stories, each issue of ASK contains an interview with a distinguished project manager. Past interviews have been with Alex McCool, manager of Space Shuttle Projects office at Marshall Space Flight Center; Cathy Peddie, assistant manager of the Ultra Efficient Engine Technology Program Office at Glenn Research Center; Charlie Pellerin, NASA’s former Director of Astrophysics; and Joan Salute, associate director of research at Ames Research Center.

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ASK also includes unique practices by guest columnists and wide-ranging features by regular contributors Terry Little of the U.S. Air Force and Scott Cameron of Procter & Gamble. Each volume has a general theme, such as Mentoring, Challenging the Status Quo, Prototyping, or Reviews.

ASK is distributed to program and project managers at NASA Centers, as well as to others who have a vested interest in learning from the best project managers in the world. An archive of past issues can be viewed on the APPL Web site, www.appl.nasa.gov/knowledge/ask_home.htm.

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