

How a U.S. defense contractor transformed production performance and capability for the U.S. Navy and BlueForge Alliance with SharpCloud

Visibility

Improved visibility of resource constraints and risks

Full context

Faster, more informed portfolio decisions with full context

Alignment

Better alignment between strategy, resources, and delivery

Products:

SharpCloud

Industry /

Department:

Defense and manufacturing

Introduction:

Large, complex programs require precise coordination of resources, priorities, and timelines. For a major U.S. defense contractor managing multiple critical initiatives, gaining clear visibility across projects and resource capacity was becoming increasingly difficult. Disconnected data sources and limited portfolio oversight made it challenging for leaders to understand where resources were constrained and where risks to delivery might emerge.

To address this, the contractor implemented SharpCloud to digitize their R&D roadmaps, visualizing projects, timelines, and resource allocation in a single interactive platform. By connecting the dots between initiatives and resources, leadership could prioritize high-impact projects, anticipate constraints, and align efforts with strategic objectives. The result was a shift from reactive, fragmented planning to data-driven, strategic execution, enabling faster, more confident decision-making within the BlueForge Alliance's multibillion-dollar portfolio.

The challenge:

A leading defense contractor, supporting U.S. Navy submarine industrial base initiatives, was under pressure to deliver more critical assets in a shorter timeframe. They needed to accelerate production within existing resource limitations without compromising quality or increasing risk or resource challenges to the current portfolio. To achieve this, they had to identify resource-sharing opportunities, determine ramp-up needs, and understand how to re-map technologies for new capabilities. However, they crucially lacked holistic oversight of project alignment and resource and capability gaps.

Their existing project prioritization approach was simply 'yes or no' and lacked strategic alignment. This led to a lack of coherence between projects and overarching goals, which meant they struggled to decide which projects merited prioritization and therefore resource allocation. As the rationale behind resource decisions was unclear, unforeseen roadblocks or constraints were more likely to occur and critical projects stalled.



The solution:

The defense contractor used SharpCloud to digitize their roadmaps, specifically within the Research and Development (R&D) space. These roadmaps outlined their plans for initiatives such as technology integration and workforce enhancements over the next 5 to 10 years. With SharpCloud, the team could visually analyze current project resource allocation mapped against timelines and highlight critical areas where additional resources were necessary to achieve objectives effectively.

Implementing digital roadmaps with dynamic visualization capabilities has transformed the organization's approach to portfolio project management. With resource allocation seamlessly mapped onto timelines, gaps and blockers are effectively highlighted, allowing for proactive resolution and optimized resource utilization.

Moreover, these digital roadmaps provide a comprehensive big picture view of all projects, illuminating their collective impact on top-line strategy. This holistic perspective gives stakeholders the context needed to make well-informed decisions that align with overarching organizational goals.

By connecting projects, resources, and timelines in a single interactive environment, SharpCloud helps the organization prioritize work, mitigate risk, and allocate resources efficiently across multiple critical initiatives.

Results:

By using SharpCloud to create digital roadmaps, the defense contractor was able to tell a more comprehensive story about their goals and understand the “why” behind each project. Resource conflicts and bottlenecks could be identified in advance, enabling strategic project prioritization. This allowed key resources to be reallocated effectively, delivering more in a shorter time frame. Strategic planning and objective decision-making have removed the guesswork around which projects to pursue, providing clear data on initiatives with the greatest impact at any given time.

After successfully digitizing their R&D roadmaps, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) extended the solution across the entire production environment. Within three weeks, the team saw immediate improvements in efficiency while managing extensive asset projects worth billions of dollars. The CTO noted that while the organization had always known what it was doing, gaining insight into the deeper “why” behind actions was a game-changing breakthrough of considerable magnitude.

“ While we always knew what we were doing, understanding the deeper ‘why’ behind our actions proved to be a game-changer of considerable magnitude.”

— **Chief Technology Officer**