Traits of a Better Project Manager

Good project managers are hard to find. Better ones are even scarcer. Here, we examine the anatomy of a better project manager.

**GOOD**
- RESPONSIBLE
  Accepts project ownership
- BASE DETAILS
  Attention to detail, but lacks big picture
- HEARS
  Hears, sometimes listens; standard approach
- REACTIVE
  Responds to your inquiries, overcomes issues after impact felt
- PUSHES
  Telling, directing and delegation
- SOLELY DATA-DRIVEN
  Manages project based on facts, numbers only
- QUANTITY EXPERIENCE
  Years of experience, sans context
- SPRINTER
  Rushes to meet deadlines, at any cost
- MANDATORY “WHAT” COMMUNICATOR
  Periodic communication, task-oriented

**BETTER**
- ACCOUNTABLE
  Embraces project ownership; shares success, owns mistakes
- FOREST THROUGH THE TREES
  Detailed-oriented with constant eye on the bigger picture
- ACTIVE LISTENER
  Listens to understand, nuanced approach
- PROACTIVE
  Anticipates needs, first to connect
- PULLS
  Coach, collaborator, empowers team
- INTUITIVE
  Data-driven with high emotional intelligence
- QUALITY EXPERIENCE
  Relevant, beneficial experience; tailored expertise
- MARATHONER
  Sets and keeps steady pace
- VOLUNTARY “WHY” COMMUNICATOR
  Transparent, steadfast, always provides the why

For additional insight into the traits of better project managers, contact SEH project managers Jenna Obernolte (jobernolte@sehinc.com) or Toby Muse (tmuse@sehinc.com).