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Top Thirteen Project Management Skills

By Liz Masoner

I once spearheaded an international fashion project that involved collaboration with sixty cross-functional teams across eleven countries.

If that sounds like your idea of a good time—and you excel at keeping things organized, time management, working with others, and finding solutions to difficult problems—being a project manager might be the career for you.

Our list of essential project management skills covers what you need to be a successful project manager.

What Are Project Manager Skills?

To succeed, project management professionals must bring together many moving parts and stakeholders. They need a wide variety of hard, technical and soft skills. While most project manager skills involve communication and organization, there are detailed technical and hard skills needed as well, relating to specific methodologies and frameworks, software, and industries.

Thirteen Essential Skills for Project Managers

Successful project managers need a particular set of skills, acquired from various sources over their lifetime. From soft skills to detailed project management software and theory proficiency, the combination of skills is what gives you the ability to shepherd projects to a successful conclusion while meeting all required guidelines.

Essential Soft Skills: Some people seem wired to excel in certain ways. They have a knack for seeing easy solutions or soothing tempers in a disagreement. Soft skills build on those innate abilities and are refined over time, mostly through life experiences, although training can help some skills. If you are that person who always knows where everything is in the office (even when it is misfiled), you might be project management material.

1. Communication

Project managers act as a bridge between disparate departments and stakeholders. You must be able to facilitate teamwork between parties that may never meet, or only meet when there is



an ongoing conflict. Nadege Minois, project and program manager, stresses that communication is often a primary function of project managers.

Mediating conflicts between project team members and departments with at times conflicting

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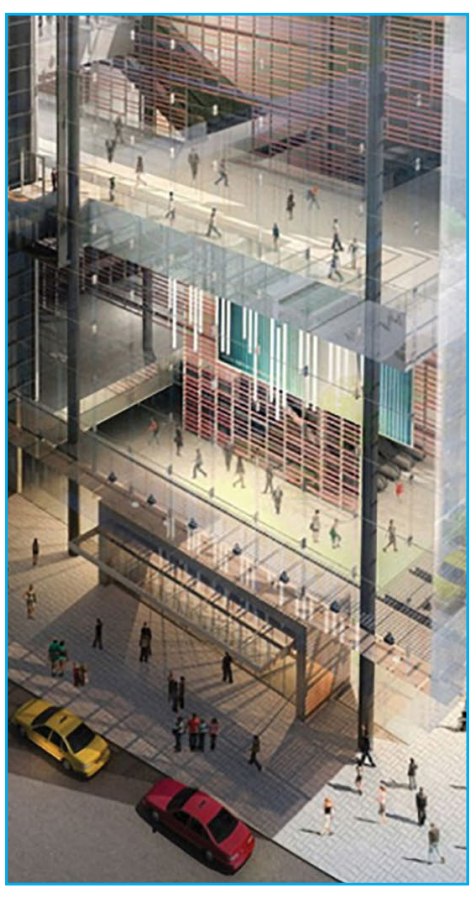
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Design-Build Services for Metro-North Railroad Hudson Line Bundle Project
MTA Construction and Development Contract No. C1000220416
Bid Date: October 21, 2026

Description of project:
Design-Builder to complete track raising along all (4) tracks at (4) new permanent bridges. Construction to include new substructure, superstructure, retaining walls, waterproofing, ballast, track, and third rail at these bridges. Utility protection and relocation will be necessary to keep necessary infrastructure in service. Some site remediation will be necessary at distinct track locations, including tree clearing, rock scaling, rock bolts, cable mesh, rockfall drapes, and shotcrete. Substation modifications will be required to tie in new service.

Many bidding opportunities are available: portable toilets, cleaning, survey, trailers, containers and dumpsters, clearing and grubbing reinforcing, concrete, structural steel fabrication, demolition, haul and dispose of soils and ballast, micropiles, soil erosion and sediment control, cofferdams, electrical subcontractor, vibration monitoring, waterproofing, rock scaling.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/Vet/Disabled







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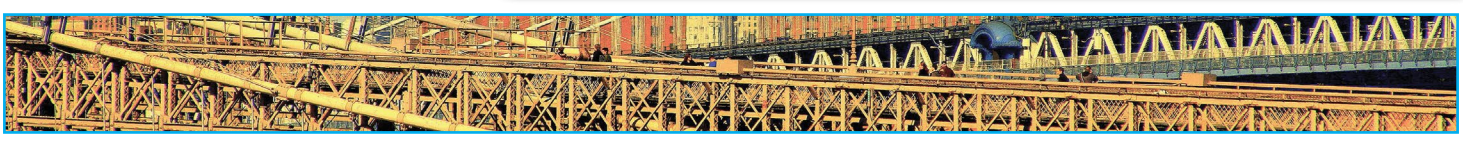
2026

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729664666

Understanding SBA Programs Webinar
Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 11:00 am–12:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Houston District Office
Contact: Elizabeth Charles, 713-773-6505, elizabeth.charles@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join us for an informative webinar designed to help entrepreneurs, startups, and existing small business owners navigate the wide range of resources and programs offered by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), including an overview of SBA's core programs: capital, counseling, contracting, and disaster assistance. Whether you're looking to launch a business, expand operations, secure funding, or recover from a disaster, the SBA has tools to support your goals. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask their small business questions to mentors/advisors from SBA's Resource Partner Network! Register online for the free webinar at https://legacy.sba.gov/event/78035

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 11:00 am–12:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Arkansas District Office
Contact: Suzanne Terrazas, 501-324-7379, Arkansas_DO@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
This webinar will provide valuable insights into the Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contracting Program certification process, which is crucial for accessing a pool of billions of dollars worth of federal contracting opportunities that are set aside specifically for woman-owned businesses. Your woman-owned small business can obtain federal contracts with less competition if you qualify. To learn how accessing these resources can significantly impact a business's growth and sustainability, and to meet with resource partners who can provide you with free one-to-one consulting, register at https://legacy.sba.gov/event/77957





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