# [3. COMPASS: AN ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR IMPROVING PROJECT TEAM COMMUNICATIONS (RS105-1)](https://www.construction-institute.org/compass-an-assessment-tool-for-improving-project-team-communications-version-2-1)

**Report Summary:** Effective communications are essential to the successful completion of engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) projects. However, effective communications would be of little benefit to the industry without a reasonable means of measurement. This research investigated ways to measure the effectiveness of project communications and, based on the findings, developed [Implementation Resource (IR) 105-2](https://www.construction-institute.org/compass-communications-project-assessment-tool-version-2-1), Compass: Communications Project Assessment Tool. This tool was designed to enable project managers to assess project team communications during the execution phases of an EPC project. The tool targets three project groups: project management, engineering, and construction.

Project teams can realize significant benefits by using the Compass diagnostic tool. Most importantly, project communications effectiveness can now be both measured and monitored, and problem areas can be identified. Benchmarked scores, which are included in the Compass tool for comparison purposes, are based upon a significant number of CII member company responses. Compass gives project teams the opportunity to take advantage of this research while minimizing the administrative burden often associated with such tools.

**Key Takeaways:**

## (1) Ensure effective communication for successful project completion​.

## (Project Phase: Prefeasibility through Operate Facility)

* Develop an assessment tool to measure communication effectiveness during engineer-procure-construct (EPC) project phases​​.
* Implement clear communication protocols across all project phases​.
* Train project team members on effective communication strategies​​.
* Evaluate the relationship between communication effectiveness and project success.
* Regularly monitor communication effectiveness to identify and address communication issues promptly​.

## (2) Identify opportunities to improve communication effectiveness​.

## (Project Phase: Prefeasibility through Operate Facility)

* Measure communication effectiveness using a tool such as Compass​​.
* Identify specific communication areas that need improvement based on effectiveness scores.
* Allocate resources to enhance communication in weak areas identified by the assessment tool.
* Track changes in communication effectiveness over the project lifecycle to gauge improvements​​.
* Implement strategies based on data to improve overall project success​.

## (3) Leverage Compass to aid in measuring and improving project team communications​​.

## (Project Phase: Prefeasibility through Operate Facility)

* Use Compass at the project's start to establish a baseline for communication effectiveness.
* Conduct regular reassessments using Compass to monitor progress.
* Analyze data from Compass to identify strengths and weaknesses in communication.
* Compare project communication scores against benchmarks from other Construction Industry Institute projects.
* Develop targeted improvement strategies based on insights gleaned from Compass.

## [(4) Tool: Compass: Communications Project Assessment Tool, Version 2.1 (IR105-2)](https://www.construction-institute.org/compass-communications-project-assessment-tool-version-2-1)

## (Project Phase: Prefeasibility through Operate Facility)

* Define key enablers for project success, focusing on tools and best practices for improved outcomes in construction.
* Highlight collaboration and technology as critical drivers for efficiency and risk mitigation.
* Recommend standardized procedures to streamline processes and improve project consistency.
* Emphasize the importance of data integration and interoperability to support real-time decision-making.
* Encourage stakeholder engagement to enhance alignment, accountability, and project transparency.

## (5) Refer to 16. Team Building for other golden nuggets in this report​.

## (Project Phase: Prefeasibility through Operate Facility)