

Construct IT Management Board Meeting

26th February 2008

Constructing Excellence, London

Present

Peter Rebbeck (PR)	<i>Chairman</i>
Farzad Khosrowshahi (FK)	<i>Director</i>
Jason Underwood (JU)	<i>Manager</i>
Chris Barker (CB)	
Samir Boudjabeur (SB)	
Nigel Cope (NC)	
Sarah Grimwood (SG)	<i>representing Garry Sanderson</i>
Peter Hollis (PH)	
Bashir Khan (BK)	
David Leonard (DL)	
Mark Sharp (MS)	
Paul Stephenson (PS)	
Marek Suchocki (MS)	

1.0

Apologies

The following send their apologies:

- Roger Courtney
- Eric Stokes

2.0

Minutes of the last meeting – actions

E.S. is to produce a 'SME version' of the information pack.

E.S. is progressing to produce an information pack that is specifically directed towards SMEs in terms of content, language, etc.

Action

E.S.

3.0

DTI United Construction Information initiative

The UCI is progressing well with the new governance having been established, increased interest in the UCI, F.K. requesting a further £10k from BERR funding, and the UCI being invited to facilitate/engage in various events. The Website is due to be launched by the end of March, which each member is contributing £250.00 to CE for the development – although CE will host the site it will be completely independent. The web address has been agreed as UCInfo.net and a £250.00 competition is being held to design the logo. A series of small launches through member events are to take place leading to the big launch, i.e. UCI Festival, in approximately 18 months.

4.0 Enterprise SME Portal project (SME-ABC)

As part of the juggling exercise of CIT in relation to resources and activities, a number of bids were recently submitted to the University of Salford's Enterprise competition. One of the bids was awarded the top prize of £10,000, which together with match funding of £8,000 and a further £8,000 in-kind contribution from AMARA aims to develop a definitive source of reference/information portal for SMEs. The portal proposes to also embed other facilities and be used as a tool to interface between SMEs and larger organisations; however as the MBE-KTN website already provides this the project should take this site into account.

5.0 National Platform

P.R. has not yet been able to meet with Martin Ong but is still planning to hold the meeting with regard to further understanding the current position of the UK NTP and establishing CIT's potential input.

P.R. is continuing to try and co-ordinate diaries to hold the meeting.

Bob White's request to confirm their nomination of Peter Cunningham as his replacement on the Board.

It was agreed in the first instance that P.R. is to meet with Peter to discuss.

F.K. to distribute the ICTA working group briefing 'scoping study' report.

F.K.

6.0 Members' meetings

The proposal at the previous Board meeting to increase and enhance CIT's awareness/understanding of research activity by engaging the academic community (with an industry focus) through Ph.D. Forums and an Academic Away Day is progressing.

Academic - PhD Forum

The Ph.D. forum has now been organised to be held in conjunction with ARCOM on the 7th March in the Think Lab at the University of Salford. The format/agenda will be structured around the responses and interest. P.S. suggested it would be useful to also have industry input and presence in providing valuable feedback in terms of industry relevance, etc. This activity is also of interest and beneficial for industry.

Academic - Academic Away Day

The Academic Away Day will be held prior to the 1st day workshop of the Autumn 2008 Members' meeting. Leading academics are currently being approached and invited to present the key areas of research currently being undertaken within their institutes.

Spring 2008

The Spring 2008 meeting will be held on 21st and 22nd February at the Hilton Hotel, Warwick, which aligns and follow on from the iTShowcase event at the Motor Heritage Museum on the 21st February. The 1st day workshop will focus on the 'Construction IT Revolution' theme that emerged from Nigel Steven's (Costain) presentation at the Autumn 2007 Members' meeting. The session will involve Nigel presenting his experience and frustrations of the industry's approach to ICT investment followed by a more positive and encouraging experience of Balfour Beatty. Two academics from the Academic Away Day will also be invited to discuss their experiences. As agreed at the previous Board meeting, the 2nd day will focus on 'Carbon Footprint' from a variety of perspectives in relation to ICT/innovation in the built environment. Scott Wilson, Barrett Homes/Manchester University, Gleeds, Greenpeace,

and the ODA are among the organisations that have been approached to discuss such issues as eco village/buildings and the assessment of low-energy technologies, energy management/minimising oil and gas usage, measuring and monitoring the complete carbon footprint of steelwork production and fabrication, assessing the renewable energy deployment in the retail and other sectors.

7.0 CPD development workshops

The CPD development initiated from the VC Enterprise Development Fund (VCEDF) is progressing. A teleconference will be shortly organised with the steering committee to begin compiling and developing the material for the the 1st CPD course concerned with the strategic focus of ICT directed towards the board level of organisations. CIT will also be engaging with CIRIA and Academic Enterprise at the University of Salford to provide expertise of CPD course development.

CIT are continuing to progress the CPD development activity initiated from the VCEDF and adopting the development framework established from the 2 workshops. In the first instance, a bid was submitted to the Enterprise Competition organised by the University of Salford, however this was unfortunately unsuccessful. Furthermore, CIT together with CIRIA have submitted a proposal for BERR funding (on the request of Terry Bonniface) for £15k for further CPD development. Further funding opportunities to continue the activity and build CIT's CPD portfolio are being sought.

8.0 MB Action

Recruitment

N.C. proposed at the last meeting to trial a plan for members of the board to become involved in recruiting members. N.C. to discuss at the next board meeting.

A discussion on recruitment of new members began with the need for CIT establishing what benefit it brings to member organisations. In response, C.B. has created an 'internal' blog to document ongoing activities which provides a focus on current activities – the exercise has highlighted that 21 different projects are in fact currently ongoing. It was suggested that CIT could possibly revisit and revise the output of a previous workshop focused on what it delivers and provides in terms of benefit to industry. It is difficult for organisations to justify their involvement in CIT due to the problem of gaining mass interest. Also, it appears that industry had turned away from being involved in network organisations, however this appears to possibly be changing. A suggestion was for CIT to move back into developing How to Guides, benchmarking studies reports, etc. and that now maybe a goodtime to focus on producing new output around collaborative working and BS1192. As CIT begins to reposition itself the focus should be on the strategic issues of ICT rather than the specific application. Furthermore, CIT should begin to take the strategic message to this effect to the industry. A change in funding policies is also identified as influencing the activities CIT delivers, which in turn has affected the overall membership. DTI have no funding from the treasury and therefore CIT need to look elsewhere such as BERR. In terms of moving forward, it was proposed members of the board approaching their peers with regard to delivering a message through CIT of how things used to be and the current contrasting lack of R&D effort/funding, which in the main is internal and project-based. In addition, J.U./M.S. are to provide a picture of past and current funding. In terms of increasing the membership through engaging ICT Directors, two primary camps currently exist in terms of those – 1. dealing with the day-to-day running of ICT and 2. interested in adding value to the business through ICT. Approaching the CIO Connect Forum to propose organising a CIO Director's meeting in conjunction with them

J.U./M.S.

outside of the bi-annual Members' meetings potentially a way of engaging with ICT Directors.

E.S. has taken responsibility with regard to marketing including a web-based database, website revamp, etc. An aggressive marketing plan is to be put in place. C.B. has suggested CIT not completely concentrating on member numbers but to also diversify the activities towards bringing further revenue. CIT are also to explore further recruitment opportunities with N.C.

F.K./J.U./N.C.

9.0 A.O.B

The board requested a financial summary for CIT be presented at the next meeting.

F.K./J.U./C.B.

10.0 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held prior to the Spring Members' meeting, 21st May, 13.00-15.00, Hilton Hotel, Warwick.