

## Spring 2010 Meeting

**The CIOB CPD accredited Spring 2010 Meeting will be held in conjunction with the University of Reading on the 19th May 2010. The theme of the meeting will focus on Sustainability: Impact & Challenges.**

This event will be brought to you in the spirit of **UCI** [Uniting Construction Information] by a joint promotion between **COMIT**, **buildingSMART** and ourselves – as the custodians of UCI. This will be an important event in the move to bring closer together the construction information member organisations.



UNITING CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

With issues such as climate change and reducing CO2 being high on the global agenda, the focus of the event will be on sustainability and exploring the impact this is having and will have on the construction industry. In particular, the event will focus on how this is being addressed through ICT and innovation from various perspectives.

Following a welcome from the leader of our host delegation, Prof. Stuart Green of the **School of Construction Management & Engineering** at the **University of Reading**, the day will begin with a brief overview of the status of Construct IT for Business, COMIT and buildingSMART.

**Ryder Levett Bucknall UK Ltd.** will offer us their approach to holistic measuring of sustainable enhancement to ensure that a facility is optimised both financially and environmentally through 4D cost modelling as an approach to whole life cycle costing.

Following on from RLB, **May Gurney** will discuss their own Sustainability Strategy and how IT does and can support these efforts. Their session will be specifically framed to highlight their six priority issues: Stakeholders; Climate Change; Waste Minimisation; Sustainable Materials; Biodiversity & Ecosystems and Community Investments.

Digital Practices in major building and infrastructure projects will next be presented by a team from our hosts. The University of Reading is home to the new **Design Innovation Research Centre**, a 'challenging engineering' exploration group, which has a vision of a new mode of design in the digital economy. Connections will be drawn between work in this group and related research on innovative construction and sustainability.

**Scott Wilson** design award winning sustainable buildings and in their presentation they will explain some of the tools used to plan, model, design and ultimately monitor and evaluate buildings. The potential for BIM to simplify the process and create new opportunities for enhancing sustainability will also be discussed.

IT contributes heavily to business energy consumption and carbon emissions, but for many it is as much a part of the solution as the problem. **The Corporate IT Forum** will discuss with us the experiences of fellow corporate IT professionals through the sharing of sustainability challenges, initiatives and tools for mutual benefit and proven results.

Product manufacturers and sustainability analysts are converging on the need for 'interoperable' product data containing more than

just 3D graphics. Whilst pressure in the USA is for better handover information, in Europe standards for sustainability are beginning to appear. Can the two be harnessed together? In a session presented here by a representative of **AEC3/buildingSMART** - the buildingSMART solution will be examined.

The day will conclude with the opportunity for delegates to further explore and debate the issues related to sustainability, impacts and challenges facing the industry raised during the day and even those not previously touched upon, in a facilitated panel session.

**The Autumn 2009 Meeting was held in conjunction with London, South Bank University on the 26th November 2009. The theme of the meeting was focused on 'The Management of Information on Infrastructure Projects'.**

The event was very well attended with representatives from all branches of the sector – academia, government and industry professionals. Among others, we were fortunate to hear from Andrew Gay, a veteran chief executive with immense experience and a passionate speaker on the subject of IT project management and long term infrastructure planning and implementation. Andrew also chaired the closing debate on the day which saw a very informative and lively debate between the panel and the floor.

A summary of together with the presentations from the event are available on our website: [www.construct-it.org.uk](http://www.construct-it.org.uk)

## TEMPUS – Education and Culture

The **Trans-European Mobility scheme for University Studies (TEMPUS)** is a programme that supports the **modernisation of higher education and creates an area of co-operation in countries surrounding the EU.**

Based on the success of Tempus 3, an EU funded project, in designing and implementing a state-of-the-art 'MSc IT Management in Construction' programme within Damascus University, Syria, the project team have now submitted another bid for further funding. The continuation project will be led by **Construct IT for business**,

the University of Salford (UK), in collaboration with Damascus University (SY), Northumbria University (UK), Lyon University (FR), New University of Lisbon (PT) and Kassel University (GD).

The aim of this TEMPUS 4 Project will be to develop a portfolio of ICT related courses for the Construction & Engineering Domain, whilst also establishing Damascus University as a major centre of excellence for ICT in Construction in the Eastern Mediterranean. This will pave the way for extending the competence development for participating academic staff in Syria through training them in research-related skills such as, research philosophy, strategy and methodological approach, in addition to technical writing, quantitative and qualitative methods, presentation skills, formulation of research questions, and ethical codes for research conduction.

This will aid the creation of PhD programmes in this important area. These skills will in turn be disseminated to other institutions in Syria through the presence of contact persons in other leading Syrian national universities in addition to the strong industrial connections within the consortium.



## Welcome to New Members

**Construct IT for business** are pleased to welcome the following new members to the network:



Laing O'Rourke is the largest privately owned provider of construction solutions in the UK. Formed over 30 years ago the

groups international operations posted managed revenue of £5bn in 2009. Employing over 30,000 people across Europe, South Asia, the Middle East and Australasia their operations span five core sectors: Lifestyle, Business, Social Infrastructure, Transport & Mining and Energy, Utilities & Waste.

Causeway foster a strong belief that what they do is of significant benefit to the Construction Industry. Their products and services, management & staff are dedicated to enabling customers to unlock value in their businesses. They believe in using innovative technology to increase profitability, not just at the project level but also across whole organisation. Their approach is based on a confident attitude to improving the construction industry through a fresh and vigorous approach to product development and service combined with a commitment to unshakeable reliability and trustworthiness.



Kier group is a leading construction, development and services group specialising in building and civil engineering, support services, public and private house building, property development and the private finance initiative (PFI). The group employs over 11,000 people worldwide and has an annual revenue in excess of £2.1 bn. Kier Group operates through four main divisions, each focused on being best in its class. Their activities span building, civil engineering, open cast mining, facilities management, residential and commercial property investment and PFI project investment.

Scott Wilson Group plc. is a global integrated design and engineering consultancy for the built and natural environments. With its HQ in the UK, the group has a worldwide network of 80 offices and over 6,000 employees. Scott Wilson offers strategic consultancy and multi-disciplinary professional services in the Railways, Buildings & Infrastructure, Environment & Natural Resources and Roads sectors.



a world business



4hSolutions specialise in providing innovative and practical solutions for a variety of market sectors. Their team consists of a diverse range of professionals from the banking, insurance, process and security industries. They focus on the specific problems of managing different types of assets; stock, tools, plant, fleet and process equipment and have acquired unrivalled expertise in these areas. Their solutions enable organisations to improve the efficiency of their entire asset management processes and help to address four of the most important issues facing organisations: Reducing Cost, Controlling Risk (including compliance), Improving Customer Service and Improving Efficiency.

## BIM Awareness and Competency

**Construct IT for business** hosted a BIM seminar for the industry in the ThinkLAB, University of Salford on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

The presenters were Dr. Jason Underwood, Manager of **Construct IT for business** and Bilal Succar, BIM strategy advisor and independent researcher and Director of ChangeAgents AEC.

While it is evident that there is increasing awareness of BIM and the technologies that need to be adopted, there is much less knowledge of the processes and policies necessary for successful adoption.

The session commenced with Jason providing an overview of the concept of BIM along with exploring its evolution and different levels of adoption. He also presented the picture of BIM adoption through a number of case studies within the UK sector and the benefits realised at each level of adoption. Finally, he discussed the future potential for BIM.

Bilal followed on, discussing how Design, Construction and Operation (DCO) organisations can plan their BIM implementations, develop their BIM capabilities in a systemic way, and enhance their client deliverables. His presentation had three parts. In the first, he introduced the different BIM Capability Stages, Maturity Levels and major BIM Steps needed to maximise productivity and reduce change resistance. In the second, he discussed how DCO organisations can assess themselves, their peers and their service providers' BIM competency. Finally, he elaborated on how organisations can use this assessment to prioritise their efforts, investments and increase their BIM competency.

## CIB W78 IT in Construction Committee

**Construct IT for business** is pleased and proud to announce that it is now part of CIB W78. The International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction is a worldwide network of over 5000 experts from around 500 member organisations active in the research community, in industry or in education, who cooperate and exchange information in over 50 CIB Commissions covering all fields in building and construction related research and innovation. This further cements our involvement in IT in construction internationally.



## Building on IT Survey 2010

A survey of information technology expenditure and trends in the UK Construction Industry has recently been completed. **Construct IT for business** has been a senior partner in this major piece of work believed to be the only comprehensive survey of its kind dedicated exclusively to the construction sector. **Building on IT 2010** follows on from the original highly successful series of surveys carried out during the late 1980's and early 1990's.

The report aims to re-establish an important source of industry benchmark data designed to help construction organisations manage, plan, develop and invest in modernised IT infrastructure and systems to ensure organisation competitiveness, industry process efficiency and client value.

Please contact us for further details and/or to purchase a copy of the final report.

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