



September Community Day, hosted by KOREC



Gerry, Jason, Iain and Stuart on a site visit to London Bridge

**Autumn 2013**



## Newsletter 17 Autumn 2013



### Introduction

David Sweeney of KOREC (Business Development) welcomed us to their Huntingdon premise. Korec has 40 years' experience across all sectors, with a main focus on Geo-spatial imaging.



[www.comitproject.org.uk](http://www.comitproject.org.uk)

Stuart mentioned that traditionally construction has been slow to change but that new developments in IT are changing our views (for the better) and ability to trial new solutions.

Stephen Smith, our new Construction Chairman.

35 delegates attended the Community Day and AGM. We welcomed two new construction members (since our June Community Day) and following our Community day, Morgan Sindall also joined COMIT:

Bam Nuttall: [www.bamnuttall.co.uk](http://www.bamnuttall.co.uk)  
Laing O'Rourke [www.laingorourke.com](http://www.laingorourke.com)  
Morgan Sindall [www.morgansindall.com](http://www.morgansindall.com)

We also welcomed four guest firms: Bio, Etherlive, Extrinsic Global, and McGee Group.

If you wish to be put in touch with any of the new members or guests, please contact Gerry on [Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk](mailto:Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk).

### Chairmen's comments

From Stuart (who was covering for Iain who was on holiday).

Stuart showed the original COMIT charter and we honoured that on 10 September COMIT was 10 years old. Some of the original firms and people are still with us today!



Stephen has worked within construction at Bechtel for 16 years. Stephen's degree is in law and Information Technology and it is within technology where his real passion lies. During his years at Bechtel, Stephen has worked on a wide range of Civil projects always looking to leverage technology to enhance design and construction processes – his current role on Crossrail focuses on the implementation of BIM including deployment of Field BIM and mobility solutions.

Stephen's thought of the day centred on the iconic London Walkie "Scorchie" building, where the architect has received unwanted press attention for the buildings solar reflection being able to bake bread and even melt parts of cars! More collaborative working and enhanced building analysis software brought about by BIM should help problems like this being avoided in future.



Stephen can be contacted on [ssmith1@bechtel.com](mailto:ssmith1@bechtel.com)

## M&S Lifting

And now for a COMIT success story ...

June 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 was the date of the COMIT meeting in Newcastle, at which Paul Beck from Formability gave a presentation on App developments. He had chatted to Iain the night before about this and an opportunity to develop an OnSite inspection system and it was agreed there was a need for this App. So Formability built it for M&S Lifting. A year later Paul invited Gary Moorhouse, from M&S Lifting (who provide a first class lifting equipment inspection, testing and maintenance sales and hire service for businesses based in South Wales) to share his experiences with COMIT. He couldn't attend in person but sends this feedback:

*"Before we used OnSiteForm, documenting inspections was getting very time consuming and cumbersome and we wanted a more efficient way of doing this. That is why we approached Formability to see what they could do for us. Formability proposed the OnSiteForm system, and it was the right solution for us.*

*Let me (Gary Moorhouse) tell you how it helped me at 3 of my customers:*



### a) Swansea Dry Docks.

*Swansea Dry Docks opened 3 years ago, with no inspection system in place. M&S Lifting were commissioned to carry out their statutory inspections. We used excel spreadsheets to manage our inspections and certifications but it was taking too long to do this. Using OnSiteForm, we can now carry out inspections far more quickly and efficiently, cutting the overall time taken in half.*

### b) Fairwood/Tata

*The Fairwood asset register is over 1,300 items on a site that is 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. Health & Safety is a key requirement for the site, and if there is an incorrect procedure in place, such as no risk assessment or method statement, production could stop at £1m per day. With compliance a key issue, it was important that we were seen to be using a quality inspection process. OnSiteForm is clearly seen to be a quality system that users can log onto via our website to see the full inspection status of their assets.*

### c) Murphy

*They have a 5 year contract with Welsh Water and their previous paper based system was poor. With 13 sites across South Wales, there were issues with compliance, traceability and the system being fit for purpose. Using OnSiteForm they now have the information immediately available, with no down time."*



For more information contact Paul on [paul.beck@formability.co.uk](mailto:paul.beck@formability.co.uk) or visting [www.auditform.com](http://www.auditform.com) or <http://www.mandslifting.co.uk/>

### Technology showcase: The “Tile” APP

The picture below shows someone reaching for their keys but you will note a square tile. This Tile attached to items is a brilliant “APP” way to track and locate articles, such as where a bike was left (with GPS). This has obvious benefits to also locate stolen items in the work or private environment.



For more information contact Rob on [rob.fawn@interserve.com](mailto:rob.fawn@interserve.com)

### Health & Safety BIM:

Stuart Young presented how leveraging BIM can benefit health and safety on site, although there are challenges, such as keeping information up to date.

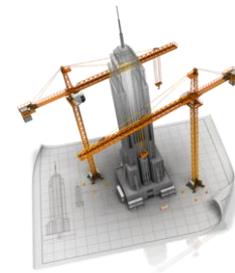


The identification and use of machine guidance on one major infrastructure project had savings of up to 20% when

compared against traditional methods. However, a hidden benefit was that exposure to health risk was reduced markedly (less feet on the ground) and believed to be a significant contributor to the Accident Frequency Stats that turned in 2.75million man hours worked incident free at that site.

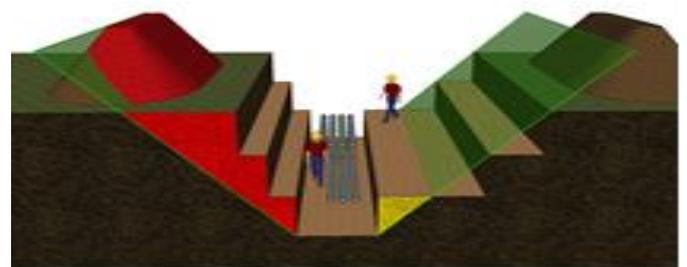
The drivers behind all this are initiatives driven by government; *Latham and Egan, Constructing Excellence, M4i, Gershon, BIM Initiative, and the latest.... Construction 2025* ...follow link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/210099/bis-13-955-construction-2025-industrial-strategy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210099/bis-13-955-construction-2025-industrial-strategy.pdf)



The use of BIM data in support of Construction Health and Safety is becoming more widely accepted as a safety tool providing project teams a powerful interactive aid that allows a more thorough

assessment of site work and allows project teams to “see before they do”



For more information contact Stuart on [young@fiatech.org](mailto:young@fiatech.org)

### LoadSpring Hosted Services

Jenni MacGregor, Head of Planning at bam nuttall, shared her experiences with LoadSpring hosted services provided by Milestone.

Bam nuttall’s requirement is to satisfy the needs of two clients: the internal one and external clients, such as Transport for London, Highways Agency, Network Rail, Crossrail, etc. ... but with one

programme solution. The LoadSpring solution yielded many benefits for bam nuttall, as shown in the screenshot below.

For more information contact Jenni on [jenni.Macgregor@bamnutall.co.uk](mailto:jenni.Macgregor@bamnutall.co.uk) or Ann Craig (Milestone) on [ann.craig@milestoneuk.com](mailto:ann.craig@milestoneuk.com)

**LoadSpring delivers Web-based application solutions**

**BENEFITS**

- > Supports access from any machine, any company, any location
- > 24/7 access with UK and US support
- > Scalable, efficient, collaborative working
- > Supports the software versions that we require NOT that provider dictates
- > Removes company firewall issues
- > A additional database available within days - user provided or vanilla
- > Dilutes in house IT resource demand

**bam nuttall** **LOADSPRING**  
Fast, easy, mobile. Now.



### KOREC showcase

KOREC is the UK distributor for Trimble: Martyn Palmer of KOREC shared his experiences of the new Trimble TerraFlex solution. It is an easy-to-use solution for field GIS data collection which can run on any Smartphone. It is a cloud-based solution, available on a subscription basis.



The value of Terraflex is:

- Instant productivity with an intuitive application that requires little to no training
- No database or GIS manager required - back office systems are configured to allow you to set up projects and forms without having any GIS or database experience.
- User centric application allows work on multiple projects and keeps field workers organized
- Provides an efficient and easy to use workflow, similar to smartphone apps, that is more intuitive to the average user
- Expands data collection into mixed fleets of Trimble and consumer devices
- Consistent workflow that is the same across all platforms.

In conclusion “what sets Terraflex apart?”  
Answer: It is Simple and easy to use without sacrificing data integrity.

For more information contact Martyn Palmer on [martyn.palmer@korecgroup.com](mailto:martyn.palmer@korecgroup.com)

### Projects update:

#### MobiCloud

Jason is our main representative on this EU funded project and has set up the website at [www.mobicloudproject.eu](http://www.mobicloudproject.eu).

MobiCloud is a project to develop the technology and platform for a European Corporate Appstore. It uses a hybrid approach (native code plus web technologies) and aims to make it easy to develop cross-platform and “context aware” applications. A Software Development Kit (SDK) is one of the outputs of the project.

It is also designed around a “service” model, so both the platform & the apps it hosts are charged for on a monthly basis with potentially no up-front cost (Platform as a Service – PaaS & Software as a Services – SaaS). As such it could be particularly relevant to construction. For more details see the [project](#) page on the website. MobiCloud could potentially be useful to all of our members as a cloud-based technology marketplace. End-users, mobile developers, app vendors and system integrators could collaborate to develop solutions for the construction industry.

Mobicloud includes four major trials, one of which is being run by COMIT member Costain. They have developed a Site Diary app which is already being trialled on site using iPads. You are all encouraged to join the Mobicloud early adopter program. Email [info@mobicloudproject.eu](mailto:info@mobicloudproject.eu) or [jason.scott@comitproject.org.uk](mailto:jason.scott@comitproject.org.uk). You can also follow progress on twitter @MobiCloudproj and LinkedIn at <http://tinyurl.com/crtf4lr>.

## TSB – Enable my Team

This is a TSB funded, collaborative partnership between lead partner, MobiBiz, Costain and COMIT. Stuart Young is steering COMIT's activities. As previous, the **Enable My Team** project started on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 to look at improved supply chain information and delivery using a cloud application. A cloud based intelligent spend management system with the capability to relate unstructured data using machine learning algorithms. The project will deliver a less wasteful future, with intent is to make better use of assets and resources and a much greater visibility of supply chain activity. It will identify potential risks and opportunities and develop a much better relationship with suppliers. This is an 18<sup>th</sup> Month project that is a part TSB funded, collaborative partnership. Various meetings and discussion have taken place with members of the supply chain in an attempt to establish existing process and develop cloud architecture. An innovative portal prototype is planned for October. In addition the website is currently being updated and will be made fully accessible soon.

For more information please contact Sandeep Jain of Mobibiz on [sjain@enablemyteam.com](mailto:sjain@enablemyteam.com) or Stuart on [young@fiatech.org](mailto:young@fiatech.org)

Social media activities: Twitter@enablemyteam

*We are developing a spot at each Community Day for update on progress and also for members to raise ideas for projects – also to include an on-line form on the website.*

## AGM

### Introducing our new website – [www.comit.org.uk](http://www.comit.org.uk)

Members are asked to check out the new website and provide Jason and the rest of the team with your feedback. It is still being developed and material from the old website will gradually be ported across.

We now have a [blog](#) which can also be accessed via the website. If you have any news items or events

that you are holding that you would like COMIT to write about or publicise then please email [jason.scott@comitproject.org.uk](mailto:jason.scott@comitproject.org.uk).



One thing that we want to do is have a page behind each logo to each firm (a better benefit / visibility to technology members than now exists).

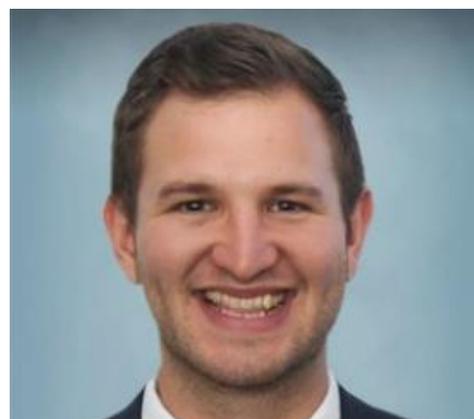
Ideas raised on the day included:

- News (easily seen) and news feeds
- Requirement forum page – ask the question and respond
- Info on length of service

Got any great “web eureka ideas” contact Jason at [jason.scott@comitproject.org.uk](mailto:jason.scott@comitproject.org.uk).

## Graduate's Day – feedback

Harrison O'Hara from Costain provided feedback on our first Graduate's event. We should first introduce Harrison. He is our Engineering Doctorate, focussing his 4 year research project on Mobilising Building Information Modelling (BIM). He is being supported by Costain, COMIT, Crossrail and Loughborough University



Back to the graduates ... this was a great event where the graduates worked on three construction scenarios

in their workshops: people, process and technology. Some great ideas were produced. Feedback from the day suggests that in future graduate events we need more diversity (of firms and potentially wider sectors than construction).



Workshops

- Modern day construction issue
- Improving everyday construction process
  - Digital signatures
  - Mobile Applications
- Worked on 3 construction scenarios
  - People
  - Process
  - Technology



[www.comitproject.org.uk](http://www.comitproject.org.uk)

When the next graduate day comes along Harrison states *“I would encourage you to extend the invite onto your bright and innovative graduates within your companies”*.

If you have any ideas or specific technologies that you think are suitable for the graduates day please contact Harrison on [Harrison.OHara@costain.com](mailto:Harrison.OHara@costain.com)

### Future Community Days (all Thursdays)

- 5 Dec 2013, host Timico (Newark)
- 20 March 2014, host Computerlinks (London)
- 19 June 2014, host Milestone (London)
- 25 September 2014, host to be advised
- 4 December, 2014, host to be advised.

### KEY EVENT - COMIT's IT Conference

Date for your diary. COMIT is holding its annual mobile IT conference on **Thursday 7 Nov 2013** at the Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London. In past years this has been a great event and once again, we have put together a super line up. The conference will be chaired by Duncan Evans of Crossrail with a keynote speech by Phil Jackson from ICE. Our own Technology visionary, Francis Rabuck is coming from the USA to show us what new gadgets and widgets are on the construction horizon. Send back your booking form (via the link) to Gerry to secure your place (member price is £50) <http://www.comit.org.uk/#!conference/cs05>

### ThinkBIM

The ThinkBIM programme is run by the Centre for Knowledge Exchange at Leeds Metropolitan University for regional businesses in the

construction industry. Each sequence typically involves two evening events followed by a half-day (afternoon) conference; the latter includes plenary presentations and two workshop series. For 2014, one of the BIM-related themes will be mobile working, and the ThinkBIM team is keen to invite and involve COMIT members in an evening event, provisionally fixed for **5 March, and the final half-day event (provisionally on 9 April)**.

If you want to know more about this, please contact Paul Wilkinson on [paul.wilkinson@pwcom.co.uk](mailto:paul.wilkinson@pwcom.co.uk) or Duncan Reed on [Duncan.Reed@tekla.com](mailto:Duncan.Reed@tekla.com)

### Subscription rates

For existing members the annual fee is unchanged (£1,450). We are however introducing a new pricing structure for new members which will be discussed on a case-by-case basis according to size of firm. If you have any questions regarding membership fees / renewals, contact Gerry on [Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk](mailto:Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk)

### Financial update

Gerry stated that we have had a most successful year with income up from £73k to nearer £100k. Funded projects, such as MobiCloud and Enable my Team have also reduced our reliance on subscriptions from 71% of turnover to nearer 60%. At the time of the AGM the year end outcome (30 Sep) had not been reached so these figures may shift slightly.

### AOB

Mick Anglim has been a regular Community Day attendee (representing Ordnance Survey). He is retiring (although he may attend in December with his replacement)! We thanked him for his support over the years and wished him good health and a very happy, well-earned retirement.



**See you all in December, if not before at our IT conference in November! Gerry**



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COMIT is a company limited by shares but currently run on a not for profit basis  
for the benefit of its members

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