



Neill Pawsey presenting at the Construct IT for Business meeting at CIOB -18 May 2012

Summer 2012



Newsletter 12 June 2012



Introduction

Thirty delegates winged their way Northwards for our Community Day in Newcastle. This was hosted by Waterstons at the Hancock Museum. We welcomed two new members: Level3 Communications and John Sisk & Sons. We also welcomed our guests: 4 Projects, DCM Productions and Walker Ellis Associates.

If you wish to be put in touch with the new members or guests, please contact Gerry on Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk.

Chairmen's comments

Jason questioned current working practices and wonders what others are doing on lean construction work. If you have any feedback on this, please contact Jason on Jason.Scott@bbge.com.

Iain mentioned that he will be deployed abroad from early July and not back with us until October. In his absence Stuart Young will cover as co-Chairman. Stuart has been involved with COMIT from the very beginning and will be a knowledgeable and safe pair of hands - beulahgig@gmail.com

Solutions Directory

COMIT, with grateful thanks to Waterstons, has created a Solutions Directory. It is live on our website but needs to be a better tool for industry to use so please browse and provide feedback. We need to build an element of trust to understand if the solution will really be suitable for the task in hand. COMIT will not actively promote any one solution but will provide links direct to members' sites. So, we need your help:

- Construction members – we need you to identify your problems and seek solutions

- Technology members – we need you to look at what is available and where there are gaps that you can fill.

For ideas and feedback on the Solutions Directory contact Stuart Young on beulahgig@gmail.com

Soap Box 1. KOREC / Walker Ellis - Field demonstration

James walker and Melanie Wheatley demonstrated the aerial mapping device, SwingletCAM on behalf of member KOREC.

The Swinglet CAM is an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (80cm wingspan, 500g weight) which is flown over the survey area and it takes individual photos as it goes. These are then stitched together to produce one seamless geo-referenced orthomosaic which can be used directly in GIS, mapping, planning and image editing software. Applications include (but are not limited to) Archaeology, agriculture, coastal, construction, environmental, flood alleviation, forestry, golf courses, infrastructure, landfill, mining, quarrying and rail. COMIT delegates were treated to a live demonstration – the red lines on the screenshot show the flight path of the SwingletCAM.



The photo below shows James and Melanie setting up the SwingletCAM for take-off. For further information contact James on james@walkerellis.co.uk



Soap Box 2: Adam Bennett, Costain / Bentley

London Bridge station redevelopment is the largest single-contractor package let by Network Rail. The station is the oldest in the UK, originally constructed in 1840, and has grown over the decades to be a bit of an unknown quantity resulting in two completely separate stations. In the 1970s a hole was knocked through the wall and a footbridge put in place. The redevelopment will see the removal of the wall, reconfiguration of the platforms, and a new 7000m² concourse built at street level – which will effectively open up the station and join up the borough of Southwark.

Throughout the works Costain will maintain a working station whilst working around the Shard and in the congested Centre of London. The station is the 3rd busiest in the UK in terms of both rail traffic and passenger numbers and Platform 6 at London Bridge is (allegedly!) the world's busiest platform.

BIM & Mobile Technology Deployment

Key technology deployment being undertaken:

- A BS1192 compliant CAD Management system, enabling the addition of

Costain's own metadata, publishing of models for use on site and opening up access to the supply chain – Costain can add their own suppliers to minimise RFIs

- Complying with NR naming conventions but using Uniclass as metadata – this will allow Costain to comply with COBie and Government BIM Strategy for 2016
- Mobile deployment for snagging, supply chain management, materials tracking (through QR codes or RFID) and access on site to the 3D model
- Augmented Reality – to demonstrate temporary works, in context, before they are erected – see image below.



Workshop 1: Mobile Apps

The workshop was led by Paul Beck of Formability who covered 5 key aspects: the lessons learnt, benefits, development considerations, good and bad examples and feedback from a COMIT survey.

The speed of deployment is astonishing when one considers that it took:

- 9 years to get 1 million AOL users
- 9 months to get 1 million Facebook users
- 9 days (yes 9 days) to get 1 million “drawsomething” users!

A question was posed: “if COMIT did an App would this would be useful / what would it be?”

Please provide feedback on what free Apps are available / useful ones so we can produce a top 10 useful Apps (which can be periodically updated).

Members were asked to consider the following Questions in the workshop session:

- Vision: What is the problem or opportunity? Is it really needed?
- Technology – why a mobile app?
- Platform – what - Apple / Android?
- Needs: What should it do?
- Examples – Are there examples elsewhere we can use or learn from?
- ROI - Is it cost effective?

Some ideas / thoughts for a COMIT App include:

- It is notable that most people use mobiles for information when not necessarily in office on the web.
- Better way of getting COMIT people to know each other would be an App that fulfils function of connection cards – could be embedded in Solutions Directories.
- The Solutions Directory could also be an APP
- An App that enables posting questions asking for help –latest fields in APPS but fed via other avenues
- An App that is a call for projects – feed (like project searching partners)
- Mobile version of COMIT web
- Mobile news stories – RSS feed
- Could use medium like Chatter.

Soapbox 3: IMO Steve Slater, Shepherd / John Driscoll, EMS

This presentation concentrated around the challenges posed in rapid site set-up and the solution used, the Intelligent Mobile Office, i-MO. This provides a reliable and secure data communications at remote, mobile and temporary locations. WWAN appliance uses two independent cellular connections that are combined to provide redundancy, super-fast download speeds and low latency – supporting all major cellular standards.

Shepherd's experience of the i-MO was:

- this was first used in 2006 as a COMIT trial
- was quick to deploy to a new site
- used for business continuity and site decant
- Secure connectivity to company IT systems
- Initial feedback from site staff was good

- It provided a total solution
- Increased demands out-grew the available performance of original i-MO.

The newer model has improved reliability and performance and is a support for HSDPA and other high-speed mobile data technologies

A question was posed to members – Should COMIT still lobby BT or are we wasting our effort?

The consensus was that we look for alternative solutions.



Workshop 2: Waterstons - BIM, change and Technology

Alistair McLeod's opening quote was that "we should never waste a good crisis".

The importance of BIM is clear and whilst many have a different interpretation of what exactly this is, we cannot escape it. We will all be involved in defining or delivering at the point of work and COMIT will be looking at this in line with Government initiatives.

Workshop 2:

- What are the top 5 risks to making BIM work?
- What are the top 5 priorities that construction companies need to consider if BIM / Mobile solutions are to be successful?

We split into three groups so more than 5 risks were stated, including:

- Need a defined, undisputed standard. Agreeing standards of transferred information (COBie, Revit, IFC)

- Shift change in cultural and working practices, ie a more open relationship regarding information exchange
- Lack of management “buy in”, as it is seen as a mandate rather than benefit
- Perceived low ROI for the required work to comply / implement BIM – therefore do the bare minimum
- Technology may not be in place to cope with BIM requirements
- Resources and investment in the short term and building the business case
- Availability of “end to end” BIM solution
- Engagement with software firms. Do we trust you “Licenses”?
- Short term CAPEX cost to set up systems and train people (offset by OPEX cost)
- Information overload.

The priorities that construction companies must consider include:

- Publicise BS.11.92 Information Modelling
- Sell the individual benefits to BIM
- Successful communication up and down – educate the organisation
- Demonstration projects
- Infrastructure to move mobile data
- Construction companies must understand how / what BIM means to them, ie current processes and how they may need to be adapted
- Engagement with supply chain now to ensure we are ready for BIM
- Understand and evaluate the ROI benefits
- Establish a technology plan.



Projects Update

On-going and pipeline projects include:

- Real time Field Reporting using Smart Devices and Software – seeking potential trial sites
- Costain looking at trialling innovation –
 - Heterogeneous Real-Time Data Capture (Costain and Simeio)
 - Vehicle Tracking (Costain and MobiBiz)
 - Data Capture (Costain and Smart Builder)
 - Highway Project (Costain and Korec)
- Mobicloud – EU bid project (Appear Solutions and Costain)
- Level 3 and Sir McAlpine.
- Loughborough 3 year project – enables house builders to better retrofit their homes for better energy use

Have you done anything that can be a case study to up load on the web? Project details can be found on the COMIT website.

If you would like more information on any of the above, or have an idea for a project, please contact Sharika on

s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

COMIT Events

- **27 Sep 2012** Timico/COMIT joint event
- **4 Oct 2012** Construction members meeting
- **15 Nov 2012** COMIT’s MobileIT Conference 2012 – “building Information Mobility”

Community days, 2012

- **6 Sep 2012** - host is Reading University (also AGM and social – TBA)
- **6 Dec 2012** - host is BT at Adastral Park, Ipswich

Community days, 2013

- **7 Mar 2013** - host either Loughborough University or Oxford Brookes
- **6 Jun 2013** - host either Loughborough University or Oxford Brookes
- **12 Sep 2013** – host KOREC
- **5 Dec 2013** – host Timico.



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