

Project-News



Winter 2011



Newsletter 10 December 2011



Introduction

This time last year we had to cancel our Community Day at Lancaster University due to heavy snow. This year the weather was kinder (albeit wet) and 30 of us had a very successful and most enjoyable Community Day at Lancaster University's InfoLab21.

We welcomed one new member: SmartBuilder – www.smartbuilder1.com. We also welcomed our guests: Autodesk, Outsourcery and Simeio.

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

Emerging Technologies

The note from our Chairmen stated that although there is much doom and gloom around, that doesn't mean all bad news. In fact there is a positive outlook for COMIT as *NOW* is the time to invest in technology and review our processes. Hence our theme for the day was emerging technologies.

Our first challenge of the day was to look at what members measure on site or would like to measure, giving useful insights to technology as to the issues facing construction.

A challenge was given to construction members:

1. to identify ONE piece of information regularly recorded on site
2. to identify ONE piece of information they would like to record on site.

Followed by discussion by all members to:

1. Identify a NEW use of the data already being collected and / or a new way to collect it

2. Identify best current technology for collecting this and single greatest barrier.

Real time reporting and snag (or punch) lists were key areas across the board and led to many questions: how do you map things to geomap / triangulate data? We need the equivalent of a "big Linked-In" to bring teams together and keep things cohesive after project teams disband.

Currently data is often a tick box without the level of information required to go with it. We need to link a raft of information, including evidence of good /bad craftspeople (rather than anecdotal) but is there any new technology that can move this forward?

It was suggested that a condition of contract could be that sub-contractors use software to record own snagging and that this is then used as a performance indicator.

Location on site is important and it appears there is a solution but we need a university to trial this.



If you have any thoughts on these challenges, contact Iain Miskimmin on Iain.Miskimmin@bentley.com

Presentation on Reliable Data Capture on site, Simeio



This presentation looked at the huge range of data that is required and gathered on a daily basis and the importance placed on data being accurate, reliable and compliant and easy to access / use. However, construction sites are noted for their difficulties (temporary sites, roaming workers, non-productive time, and so on). In fact we lose 20 to 30% of staff working hours through poor attendance and inaccurate reporting which is a frightening statistic!

Simeio worked through some case studies and provided a holistic solution, highlighting many customer benefits to adopting real time, mobile capture devices. Outputs can also demonstrate environmental aspects such as carbon emission / energy reports and time and cost of travelling time. For more information, contact Dan Somers at Simeio on dan@simeio.co.uk.

Do you like statistics? Gerry mentioned one that some delegates wanted clarifying - some years ago The Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association (www.hvca.org.uk) suggested that the cost of snagging equated to 3% of an M&E contractor's turnover. Assuming that this rule of thumb is still accurate and industry data shows that total M&E contracting output is valued at £29,742M in 2011, the cost of snagging is a massive £892.3M. Thus, anything that mobile technology can do to ensure work is done "right first time" would aid the construction industry immensely!

Presentation on Social Business "A look into the Near Future, Senubo

This presentation focused on and 'tapped into' the rapid increase in the use of social media and the transition of mobile technology from the days of the old 'brick' phones to the latest 'smart' devices. While many of us use Linked-In for business and perhaps Facebook for social exchanges, many of us are lost in "the cloud" and "SaaS". We are also guilty of underestimating what new technologies can do to answer immediate problems on site and how we can expect the future to look:

- Social media will become the dominant record of shared events
- It will diminish email
- Industry-specific solutions will address security and data needs
- Emergence of standards for interoperability, persistence and portability.



For more information, contact Connor Heffernan at Senubo on conor@senubo.co.uk.

Feedback on IT conference, Nov 2011

This was extremely successful with 109 delegates. Our theme was BIM and this provided great engagement all round. We gave thanks to Bill Price (Costain) who chaired the event at University College London, and our Sponsors: Bentley Systems, ICT KTN, Korec Group, Objective Computing, Timico and Vela Systems. A suggestion for next year is whether we could live stream / video the conference at a lower fee for members who couldn't otherwise access it. Conference presentations can be found on the COMIT website. The link is <http://www.comitproject.org.uk/events/>

Remote Aerial Vehicle Survey, KOREC Group



COMIT member KOREC demonstrated their new "Sensefly" Swinglet flying Camera system. Although the weather was not kind enough to allow a full practical demonstration in the built-up university campus, the presentation drew a lot of interest and questions from the audience. The Swinglet is a lightweight autonomous flying vehicle mounted with a camera to allow it to capture overhead images that can then be formed into an integrated 3D photo model of any asset, structure or landscape. A great video of it in action can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/KORECGROUP>

For more information, contact Andrew Blogg at KOREC on andrew.blogg@korecgroup.com.

Intelligent Trench, Bentley

Locating buried assets has been an issue for many decades and the inaccuracy of up to date records has compounded the problem. Developed by a team of technology partners, the Intelligent Trench is an end-to-end RFID-based solution that allows contractors, utility companies, surveyors and local authorities to manage their underground assets and greatly improve the effectiveness of all street-works projects.

Using a nationally accessible database, the project intends to cut the number of excavations required on our transportation network and reduce the £150m per year bill for damaged underground assets.

Steve Voller from Bentley, who is part of the technology team, gave a good run down on how it works and future possibilities.



For more information, contact Steve Voller at Bentley on steve.voller@bentley.com

Project Updates

Live Projects

- ✓ Real Time Field Reporting using Smart Devices
- ✓ Real Time Field Reporting using Smart Devices and Software
- ✓ Augmented Reality
- ✓ Asset Tracking using RFID Technology
- ✓ Distributed Information Modelling for Infrastructure (DiMi): whole-life construction and operation
- ✓ QR Code project

Project seeking partners

- ✓ Overhead Cable Detector
- ✓ Crossrail IT Demonstration - vehicle proximity and safety

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

Lab21

Prof Nigel Davies gave us a tour of the laboratory to see some of the new work that relates to construction.



This shows how a person can record exactly what he / she is actually looking at with exact location / intelligence to back up visual.

Nigel also mentioned potential student placements for COMIT members via HighWire. HighWire is a Doctoral Training Centre at Lancaster University. They have a post-disciplinary approach to innovation through research which crosses computing, design and management. These are very bright, computer savvy students where their sponsorship is paid already so effectively this is a (free) great opportunity for members. Want to know more? Contact Nigel on nigel@comp.lancs.ac.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2012

All the Community days in 2012 fall on the first Thursday each Community day Month:

- Thursday 1 March 2012: Host is Bentley Systems, London
- Thursday 7 June: Host is Waterstons, Durham
- Thursday 6 September: Host is Reading University
- Thursday 6 December – Host TBA

Invitation

Would you like to host the Community Day in Dec 2012? If yes, you will need to accommodate up to 50 people.

Please contact Gerry on Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk

AND FINALLY ...

Your steering group would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and very successful 2012



See you all at the March Community Day!





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COMIT is run on a not for profit basis for the benefit of its members

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