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CAPITA SYMONDS IMPLEMENTS INNOVATIVE CCM SYSTEM ON EBBW VALLEY RAILWAY PROJECT

(London, 21 August 2006)

Management Process Systems Limited (MPS) today announced that their innovative Contract Change Management (CCM) system has been selected to manage the contract processes on the Ebbw Valley Railway (EVR) project in Wales. This Scheme is an exciting project involving the re-opening of an existing freight railway line to passenger services. Passenger services last operated on the line in 1962. The project is a key part of plans to regenerate the Ebbw Valley following the closure of the Corus Works in Ebbw Vale in 2002. Work is expected to be complete during 2007. The project has been split into two contracts – Permanent Way Signalling and Structures; and Stations. Amey Infrastructure Services are performing the role of Contractor under the £13.5m NEC/ECC Option C target contract. The Employer's project manager, design engineer and quantity surveyor is Capita Symonds working from their Cwmbran office. The lead client is Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, although the project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Objective 1 funding and the Corus Steelworks Regeneration Fund. The remainder of the funding is being provided by Welsh Assembly Government Transport Grant.

Chris Harris, Project Director, Capita Symonds said, 'I look forward to delivering this exciting project, which will be a key element in regenerating the Ebbw Valley communities. I believe CCM will help Capita, in partnership with Amey, to maintain excellent NEC contract management, to the benefit of all concerned.'

The Internet based CCM system, provided by MPS, is designed to manage the contract change processes set out in the NEC/ECC form of contract. CCM is currently being used by an extensive range of clients around the UK, on civils, power and building projects. Key benefits include timely agreement of change, quality assured contract administration, the early completion of final account, improved contract management discipline, instant visibility of risk and change issues, improved change management, quality assured processes, consistency, instant access to risk spend data, rigorous audit trail, and instant availability of Excel reports over the web - all leading to reduced risk and reduce costs.

The CCM system is provided in partnership with the CSF Group, who provide the IT infrastructure through a managed service. The systems and infrastructure design supports an On-Demand business requirement where business processes are integrated across the enterprise and with key partners, suppliers and clients. The application and associated databases reside on a fully managed IBM eserver configuration in a state of the art data centre using IBM Middleware.

Robin Wilkin, Operations Director of MPS said, "We are very pleased to have won this Order on a project for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, which builds on our increasing experience with Local Authorities such as Kent, Surrey and West Sussex County Councils. We believe best practice IT systems operated by their key service providers can help them achieve their objectives on behalf of their Members and residents."

PRESS RELEASE – Final at 21.8.06

About Management Process Systems Limited

Management Process Systems Limited is a management services company whose mission is to deliver innovative solutions that deliver identifiable business advantage to the construction industry.

The company has extensive experience in the business processes, methodologies, information and knowledge requirements of the construction industry. This expertise and knowledge is re-enforced by a highly experienced capability to deploy Information Technology in support of business processes.

For more information, visit the web site at <http://www.mpsprocess.com>

Editors Note

Information regarding MPS is available on the website www.mpsprocess.com.

Photo provided is from Capita Symonds and shows the existing Lime Kiln Level Crossing.

More Information regarding the Ebbw Valley Railway project can be found at www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/ebbwvalleyrailway



Contract Change Management (CCM) is an innovative and exciting British success story on the provision of IT support to a key business process.

Hundreds of construction industry professionals from most of the large PM, QS, Engineering, and construction companies have been managing projects totalling over £500m using the system. These projects have included thousands of Early Warnings giving notice of new risks and Compensation Events for change management.

Client customers include EDF Energy, Highways Agency, Environment Agency, Imperial College London, and many more.

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Four key gains leading to reduced costs for customers using CCM are -

1. Increased productivity

Increasing workloads and shortages of skilled managers have led firms to maximise efficiency of their professional staff. CCM enables remote working, less travelling, and more effective use of key resources. Managers spend more time on decision making and less time on administration. They are also able to manage more projects.

2. Improved predictability of outcome (cost & time)

Predictability of cost and time are two of the top ten key performance measures for business excellence as identified by the Government's (dti) Constructing Excellence. CCM improves predictability, minimises surprises, facilitates speedy agreement of change, and provides very early close out of final accounts.

3. Reduced risk

CCM facilitates early warning of liabilities and opportunities, improved risk management, increased collaboration, and therefore better-informed decision making. CCM also improves contract management, which reduces the level of risk to all involved.

4. Compliance - Improved audit and visibility

CCM is a secure quality controlled system, which enables compliance in the most challenging and demanding environments. Process visibility and audit ability facilitate improved communications for all participants. Coupled with its ability to transcend location, CCM provides a powerful management tool for all members of the project team.

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