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MPS AND CCM FEATURED AS NEEDLEMANS WIN BEST INNOVATION AT QS AWARDS

(London, 8 January 2007)

Needlemans, a commercial management consultant with specific expertise with the NEC form of contract, has won the Best Innovation category at the QS Awards 2006. The award was presented to Director Julian Price at Vinopolis London in December. Needlemans submission described how they and Process Systems & Services software developers collaborated to develop the Contract Change Management (CCM) system. CCM is now delivered as a service over the internet to a range of customers across the civil engineering, building, and power sectors by Management Process Systems (MPS).

The Internet based CCM system, provided by MPS, is designed to manage the contract change processes set out in the NEC form of contract. CCM is currently being used by an extensive range of clients around the UK. 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 management information reports over the web - all leading to reduced risk and reduce costs.

The judges of the award, sponsored by QS News, considered Needlemans to be well ahead of the competition in developing the use of the NEC contract by blending traditional values with new technologies. Barry Trebes, Director of Needlemans explained, 'The construction industry to this day remains traditional. Therefore, as well as initiative, it also took courage for Needlemans as a medium sized practice to go to the IT industry and jointly develop a solution to a problem we had identified. The development of CCM was by no means easy. It took a great deal of resource, effort and investment. However, today CCM is a success story and demonstrates how the construction industry can look outside itself to improve.'

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 added, 'We are very pleased that the industry has recognised the contribution made by our partners in the development of CCM. A recent research report by the University of the West of England confirms the benefits arising from a collaborative support system that supports the NEC form of contract. Our customers understand the benefits that first class contract change management brings to their businesses, and the growing popularity of NEC and CCM is testament to the significant business benefit potential.'

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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.

Editors Note

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

Information about Needleman can be found at www.needleman.com.

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 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.

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 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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