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NEC CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CCM FOR BIRMINGHAM BOX ATM PROJECT

(London, 28 January 2009)

Management Process Systems Limited (MPS) today announced that their innovative Contract Change Management (CCM) system, which supports the NEC form of contract, has been selected for an important Highways Agency technology project in the Midlands.

A £96m contract to install the technology that will allow the hard shoulder on parts of the motorway network around Birmingham to be opened to traffic during busy periods, has been awarded to support services and construction company Carillion. Mouchel Transport Operations & Technology based in Coventry are the Designers and Managing Consultants

The scheme involves two main components; variable speed limits to help smooth the flow of traffic and the controlled use of the hard shoulder to provide an extra lane for motorists at the busiest periods. It will be expanded around Birmingham in two phases:

Phase 1

- M40 Junctions 16 – M42 Junction 3A. Variable speed limits.
- M42 Junctions 7 – 9. Variable speed limits.
- M6 Junctions 4 – 5. Variable speed limits and hard shoulder running, with the exception of 4A – 4 southbound, where variable speed limits alone will be used.

Phase 2

- M6 Junction 8 – 10A. Variable speed limits and hard shoulder running.

Work on the scheme began in Autumn 2008, with work on phase two beginning in early 2009. Phase one is due for completion by the end of 2009 and phase two by spring 2011 in order to meet recently announced ministerial commitments on the overall Managed Motorways programme.

Carillion Project Director Jeff Curry said, “CCM is a system we have used on a number of previous projects including M60 Junctions 5 to 8 Widening, The M4 Junctions 29 to 32 Widening, and The Waterfront in Barrow-in-Furness. We have found that the system provides a fully transparent approach to administrating change on projects. The web based nature of the software gives real time access to all parties providing details of the status of all early warnings and compensation events. It embraces the open and honest approach demanded by the NEC.”

Steve Logan of Mouchel, the Project Manager under the NEC Conditions said, “The Third Edition of the NEC Engineering and Construction Contract was identified as the most appropriate contract conditions under which to construct the first post-trial Active Traffic Management contract. CCM is an excellent tool in promoting compliance with what is not only a set of contract conditions but a guide to good management practises.”

PRESS RELEASE – final 28.1.09

The Internet based CCM system, provided by MPS, is designed to manage the contract change processes set out in the NEC form of contract, versions 2 and 3. 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 reduced costs.

The CCM system is provided in partnership with IBM Business Partners, who provide the IT infrastructure through a managed service. The systems and infrastructure design supports an On-Demand business requirement 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, "MPS are now recognised as the established industry leader in NEC contract management systems. We are very pleased that long standing customers such as Mouchel and Carillion will implement CCM to assist with their NEC contract management requirements. Both organisations have used CCM on several projects in the UK, so we are particularly pleased they will now use the system on such a high profile contract as Birmingham Box ATM for the Highways Agency."

Photograph of the Birmingham Box ATM works – courtesy of Mouchel



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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.

Contract Change Management (CCM) is an innovative and award winning 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 worth hundreds of millions of pounds using the system since 2001. 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, BBC Workplace, DEFRA, Metronet Rail, Transport Wales, several Local Authorities, and many more. MPS are members of the NEC Users Group, Constructing Excellence, and the Association for Project Management.

The University of the West of England (UWE) report 'Improving NEC Contract Change Management with CCM' from their Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) research project showed that 84% of CCM Users consider it as a 'good' or 'excellent' system. Significant tangible savings and intangible benefits are described.

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 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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