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Kent County Council use CCM System in the management of NEC Contracts

(London, 15 April 2010)

Management Process Systems Limited (MPS) of Cambridge today announced that their Contract Change Management (CCM) system, which supports the NEC form of contract, has been selected for two highway projects in Kent. Both projects are managed for Kent County Council by Jacobs (Maidstone office). The East Kent Access Phase 2 works are worth £62m, within an overall budget of £87m, and are being built by the VolkerFitzpatrick/Hochtief JV. The contract involves the construction of 8km of dual carriageway as well as a jacked underpass structure approx 105m long which allows the dual carriageway to pass underneath the existing Ramsgate to Canterbury railway line. The Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road is worth £16m and is being constructed by Jackson Civil Engineering. The work includes the construction of approximately 1.5km of single carriageway highway as well as two bridges, three retaining structures, one culvert and ground improvement measures.

Geoff Cripps, Major Projects Manager with Kent CC said, "CCM achieves a well disciplined and efficient approach to NEC contract change management. I had no hesitation in approving its use on Phase 2 of East Kent Access where, due to the size of the project, it will become such a crucial management tool."

The CCM system manages the contract change processes set out in the NEC form of contract. Key benefits – which deliver reduced project risk and costs savings in contract administration include:

- timely agreement of change
- quality assured contract administration
- the early completion of final account
- improved contract management discipline
- real time visibility of risk and change issues
- improved change management
- quality assured processes and consistency of operation
- online access to risk spend information
- rigorous audit trail
- business performance reporting

An academic led research project by the University of the West of England (UWE) and the design of an assessment process enables customers to demonstrate the provable benefits from the use of CCM. The extensive use of CCM over the last decade by virtually all the major clients, consultants and contractors across the construction industry has established CCM as the leading contract change management system in the market place.

The Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) CCM system is delivered through an agreement with IBM for Server Managed Services. This agreement includes data centre, hardware equipment and software products, internet services, security and support services.

Robin Wilkin, Operations Director of MPS said, "Management Process Systems is recognised as the established industry leader in NEC contract management systems. CCM has been used on hundreds of projects in the UK. These include many large infrastructure works such as highways, railways and flood defence schemes. Our experience of highway projects is second to none, especially with Local Authorities, so we are very pleased that Kent County Council and Jacobs have continued their relationship with MPS."

APPENDIX



The new road will run westwards from the Lord of the Manor junction, beneath the railway and undeveloped gap in the middle of Cliffsend, to a new roundabout where the road will split to run nominally southwards and northwards thus forming a new A256 and A299 respectively.

East Kent Access 2 courtesy of Kent County Council

Editors Notes

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.

Information about MPS is at www.mpsprocess.com.

Information about Jacobs is at <http://www.jacobs.com>

Information about VolkerFitzpatrick/Hochtief is at <http://www.volkerfitzpatrick.co.uk>

Information about Jackson Civil Engineering is at <http://www.jackson-civils.co.uk>

Contract Change Management (CCM) is an innovative and award winning British success story on the provision of IT support to a key business process. Thousands of construction industry professionals from most of the large UK PM, QS, Engineering, and Construction companies have been managing projects with CCM since 2001. These projects have managed over a million contract documents. A notable success has been the collaborative management of Early Warnings giving notification of new risks, and Compensation Events for notification of change.

Client customers include EDF Energy, Highways Agency, Environment Agency, Imperial College London, BBC Workplace, DEFRA, Metronet Rail (LUL/TfL), NAO, Welsh Assembly Government, several Local Authorities, and many more.

MPS are members of the NEC Users Group, Constructing Excellence, and the Association for Project Management. MPS is an IBM Advanced Business Partner.

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 in this award winning report on the benefits of using the CCM collaborative support system in the Construction Industry.

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In the current economic climate our customers want to save money, preserve capital and reduce risk. CCM, as a SaaS service, contributes to these objectives by -

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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