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MPS WIN CONSTRUCTION COMPUTING AWARD AGAIN !

(London, 9 January 2012)

Representatives of MPS, Carillion and Mouchel attended the prestigious Construction Computing Awards, known as The Hammers, in London on 17 November 2011. The team were delighted to receive the award for IT Project of the Year for use of NEC Contract Change Management (CCM) Cloud Solution on the Birmingham Box Managed Motorway Phases 1 & 2 - a Highways Agency project to utilise the motorway hard shoulder for improved traffic flow.

MPS - Birmingham Box Managed Motorways Phases 1 & 2 (BBMM1&2)

The final significant milestone in the Birmingham Box Managed Motorways project was reached on the 22nd March 2011 when Roads Minister Mike Penning attended the West Midlands Regional Control Centre and officially brought in to operation variable mandatory speed limits (VMSL) and hard shoulder running (HSR) on the M6 between Junctions 8 and 10A. 16 months earlier the previous Roads Minister had introduced similar interventions between Junctions 4 and 5 of the M6. The client was the Highways Agency, the Contractor was Carillion, and the Managing Consultant and Designer was Mouchel.

On average, up to 160,000 vehicles per day use the M6 between Junctions 8 and 10A and up to 140,000 vehicles per day use the M6 between Junctions 4 and 5. The transformation of these sections of M6 to a managed motorway, within tight Ministerial timescales set in 2008, will improve journey time reliability, road user safety, compliance with speed limits and bring wider socio-economic benefits to the Birmingham area.

Other works carried out under this project included the northern extension of VMSL from the earlier M42 ATM Pilot scheme from Junction 7 and 9 and the introduction of traffic conditioning measures on the M40 approach to the southern ATM Pilot interface at Junction 3A. In total, some 30km of the existing motorway network has been upgraded. All works have been delivered on or ahead of time and under budget.

The project operated a fully integrated team approach, combining civil infrastructure works with technology installation, commissioning and in-house systems. The successful integration of traditionally separate engineering disciplines has set the project apart from the norm and has allowed the team to better the extremely challenging programme.

The project utilised the NEC3 Engineering and Construction Contract Option C. Over £100m of the £150m budget was delivered through the NEC3 Contract and savings of £5m were realised. Significant risks were proactively managed by the project team resulting in 1431 early warnings, 2056 instructions, and 2155 compensation events.

To ensure proactive management of risks and resulting changes, the project team needed a system to assist with the significant quantum of data, whilst at the same time providing 24/7

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access to that data, within a disciplined NEC contract management audit trail. Contract Change Management (CCM NEC) by Management Process Systems (MPS) was selected as the preferred web based tool. All three organisations in the team had previous good experience of the NEC Contract Conditions and CCM NEC.

The CCM NEC service 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.

The following statements have been made about CCM NEC on this project -

‘Gives greater certainty of cost and visibility of change to the Employer.’

‘Adds greater/improved process, which brought the site team together.’

‘More open reporting system - one set of numbers used by all parties.’

‘Due to the level of change experienced on the project it would have been near impossible to have managed the documents without the use of CCM. The change management software was highly beneficial with this level of change.’

£44.3 million of change was processed with CCM NEC, £34.9 million positive and £9.4 million negative. This amounts to £1.5 million of change per month or nearly 60% of the original Target Cost.

Key intangible benefits proven by University of the West of England (UWE) research include timely agreement of change, quality assured contract administration, the early completion of final account, improved NEC 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, auto emails to computer or smart phone, and instant availability of Excel reports over the web - all leading to reduced risk and reduced costs. The UWE research report can be downloaded at <http://www.mpsprocess.com/downloads/uwe-ktp-ccm-report-june-2008.pdf>.

The challenge by the HA and the team promise was to be within 3% each month, each Fiscal Year and the Final Budget. CCM NEC played one of the most important parts of this task, the predictability, reliability, and the confidence of the control of the Total of the Prices, within the mechanisms of the Contract:

The 2008/09 forecasts were delivered within 0.48%.

The 2009/10 forecasts were delivered within 0.14%.

The End of life forecast was delivered within budget, exactly as reported.

David Grant, Group Manager Highways Agency said, ‘I can only congratulate the whole team for their tremendous efforts, willingness to deliver and openness throughout. I can honestly say that this scheme has been delivered truly in the spirit of partnership and mutual understanding, even when things have been tough and they have been tough right from the start. I recall very well setting out our expectations for this project at the tender inception meetings, held at the Botanical Gardens. The bar was set very high and there was always a danger with this, but necessitated by enormous constraints placed upon this project. Those constraints included a fixed programme for delivering key milestones (non-negotiable and in the case of opening of Phase 1 reduced by 16 weeks from the original programme by Ministerial intervention); a fixed budget by year and a project right at the cutting edge of innovation, without friends and a client organisation still used to how things used to be. This project has helped to change all of that by coming in each year on budget, to programme and at high quality and demonstrating such schemes can become the business as usual model. Well done to everyone involved, a true team.’

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The management of the BBMM1&2 contract was so successful that the project team were content to display statistics relating to closure of change and risk on a public notice board at the project office. The success of CCM NEC on this project has led to CCM NEC being implemented on the next Managed Motorway transformations on the M62 and Phase 3 of BBMM.

BBMM1&2 was officially opened in March 2011 with final account submitted and agreed in July. CCM NEC was instrumental in this accolade.

Photo of Gantry lift – courtesy of Carillion Civil Engineering



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 Notes

Information about MPS is at www.mpsprocess.com.

Contract Change Management (CCM NEC) 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 NEC 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.

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

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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 NEC 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 NEC collaborative support system in the Construction Industry.

In the current economic climate our customers want to save money, preserve capital and reduce risk. CCM NEC, as a Cloud Software as a Service (SaaS), 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 NEC 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 NEC 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 NEC also improves contract management, which reduces the level of risk to all involved.

4. Compliance - Improved audit and visibility

CCM NEC 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 NEC provides a powerful management tool for all members of the project team.

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