

A valuable contribution to key decisions

Steve Phillips MCIQB, director of CBC Asset Management Surveyors Ltd, was a co-winner of the Faculty of Architecture and Surveying [FAS] Premier Innovation Award at this year's Chartered Institute of Building International Innovation and Research Awards.

The aim of the competition is to encourage the sharing of innovative ideas and practices which can provide real benefits to members and other practitioners operating within the construction industry and FAS sponsor an award for innovative practice in the areas of architecture or surveying.

The prize-winning submission, which was co-written with the senior partner of Martin Associates Chartered Surveyors, Jim Martin FRICS, addressed the problems that have developed as a result of the move away from the acceptance of lowest bid tenders towards value-based procurement in the UK Social Housing Sector.

One of the main challenges is that it is extremely difficult to assess and compare the contractors' value-based tender submissions on a like for like basis. How do tender panels compare the merits of one contractor's track record on sustainability against another contractor's record on the provision of local labour? With this in mind, Steve and Jim have developed a tender decision support tool known as OVID-BV (or Optimises Value In Decision-Making in Best Value), which allows the stakeholders involved in a value-based tender analysis to both select those value attributes that are crucial to the specific project's success and evaluate the contractors bid submissions on a level playing field.

According to Steve, "Although the methodology for the software has been developed using academic-based systems such as the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Multi Attribute Utility Theory (MAUT), the OVID-BV software is extremely

user-friendly. It has already been used by Registered Social Landlords, not only to assess best value tender submissions, but also to assist in decisions of repair or renewal of specific building elements."

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Steve Phillips (centre) and Jim Martin (right) accept the FAS Innovation Prize from the CIOB President Professor Roger Flanagan.

Constructing Excellence Demonstrations

One of the organisations the CBCs are pleased to have a strong relationship with is Constructing Excellence. Their demonstration projects are ideal opportunities for businesses of CBCs' calibre to showcase their capabilities.

Constructing Excellence is currently actively looking for new projects to join the Demonstration Programme. Demonstration Projects are live construction projects innovating or applying an element of best practice. Constructing Excellence uses the learning captured from the Demonstration Programme to influence industry change. The decision as to whether a project becomes a Demonstration is taken by a working group made up of representation from industry, thus ensuring that projects accepted onto the programme are suitable and relevant.

At present they are most actively searching for projects that demonstrate:

1. Whole life value as a key driver in the project from the outset
2. The impact of leadership and people development
3. Innovation in the supply of new homes
4. Fair payments in the local authority sector
5. Collaboration between Local Authorities
6. Client driven health and safety
7. Long-term strategic planning in the infrastructure sector
8. People and skills in the infrastructure sector
9. Collaborative highways procurement

The full list of current Demonstration themes and more information on the Programme as a whole can be found on the Constructing Excellence website - <http://www.constructingexcellence.org.uk>

Alternatively, if you would like to find out more or get involved, please contact Jon de Souza, Constructing Excellence's Demonstration Programme Manager at desouzaj@constructingexcellence.org.uk or by phone on **07971-239924**.

NIRCA invites you to official launch

26th September 2007 will mark the official launch of NIRCA (The National Insurance Repair Contractors Association), in association with the CIOB, at Englemere, our Ascot headquarters.

A number of CBC are already involved, and we're keen for more of you to take advantage of this opportunity.

NIRCA founder members look forward to welcoming prospective contractors and clients alike to an open event that will showcase all that NIRCA have achieved to date and their ambitions for the future.

NIRCA's offer will include:

- A Warranty worthy of the Trustmark minimum requirements
- Health, safety and training programmes
- The website, already completed, will be the funnel of industry knowledge and communications.

If you would like to be part of NIRCA, or to attend the launch and open day, please register for information by e-mailing lauren@nirca.org.uk or visit www.nirca.org.uk