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**Project Management in the UK**

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Autumn in the UK is a time for reflection on many topics and project management reflection has been well to the fore in both the press and in professional societies. Press coverage has centred on the management of the 2012 Olympic Games while the Association for Project Management have concentrated on their major external facing event, their Annual Awards and a range of regional events.

### **2012 Olympic Programme Management**

Press interest in the organisation of the London Games in 2012 has been aroused by the departure of Jack Lemley as Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority, to be replaced by Sir Roy McNulty. Press reports of apparent cost escalation of the Games originally estimated at £3.4 Bn. Current estimates put the likely cost at more than £5 Bn. McNulty claims increased security costs and VAT account for the increase although additional regenerations costs of £1.5 Bn have also been added to the mix.

London Mayor Ken Livingstone, famously critical of UK's project management capability when bidding for the Games in 2004, claims these issues are 'resolvable' and that tax payers will not be asked to foot additional bills. Olympic legend and 5 times rowing gold medalist is not so sure, saying on BBC Breakfast TV "One of the things that was always talked about at the time was that we were not going to go over budget and that the time and effort would be put in to make sure it did not go over." I find it a little disappointing. How can they not bring VAT into the whole programme?"

The Olympic Delivery Authority have released the plans for the first of the new facilities, a scaled-down aquatic centre estimated to cost around £100 million against an original £75 million budget. The complex, sited in the East London area of Stratford will be a third the size of the original,

### **Professional News**

The Association for Project Management, the premier PM Society in Europe, reviewed its progress at its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Apart from restructuring its governance and management structure (see Breaking News on 29 November) APM has completed a range of forums for various sectional interest groups ranging from Corporate Members through Branch Leadership teams to technical development groups.

With individual membership running at about 15,000 and some 400 Corporate members, growth is showing healthy signs and confirms the view that Project and Programme management in UK is well established as a way of doing business. The membership of APM is also very active

and with more than 30 events in October and a further 30 in November, they have plenty to keep them occupied.

Demand for certification is also strong and both the Professional Exam (IPMA Level D) and the Introductory Certificate are well above previous annual numbers. New syllabi for these qualifications, aligned with the APM BoK v5, were launched in October.

A new guide on governance of projects is set to be launched early in 2007 when the Governance Specific Interest Group release their latest offering to complement their highly successful Delivering Change, this time focusing on complex and multi-owned projects. This new publication will join other new titles including the second edition of the Introductory Certificate Study Guide entitled *Starting Out in Project Management* and the revised *Project Risk Assessment and Management Guide*.

2007 promises to be even more exciting for project and programme managers with new several high profile conferences planned, including a new 2 day APM event. Details are still under wraps but the event seems likely to be held in the City of London.

So overall, there is a great deal of public interest in project and programme management in UK and this is well supported by the Professional Societies, with APM well to the fore.

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