

REGIONAL REPORT – UNITED KINGDOM – JANUARY 2008



Project Management Roundup from the UK
End of December 2007

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Major Projects

The past year has seen the completion of some important projects, and substantial progress on others. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link completes one of the largest and most complex rail projects in the past hundred years while the completion of the final element of the London Area Traffic Centre brings a long running programme to an end.



London Heathrow Terminal 5

Amongst the incomplete projects, Heathrow's new Terminal 5 Phase 1 is nearing completion and is expected to open for business at the end of March 2008, a month ahead of schedule. Current reports indicate that the project is well within budget.

There are a number of new projects to report: first, in a major funding announcement, the Arts Council has granted £50 million to the Tate Modern gallery on London's Bankside. This funding allows the extension of the Gallery more than double in size and is intended to allow it to become the world's premier institution for contemporary and modern art before the London Olympics, according to the *Independent* newspaper.

The spectacular new building, designed by architects Herzog and de Meuron, will increase the floor size by more than 60% at an estimated total cost of £215 million. Additional funding of £7 million comes from the London Development Agency and £5 million from the philanthropist John Studzinski.



View of the development of Tate Modern as seen from the new south square
© Herzog & de Meuron / Hayes Davidson

APM Update

The Association for Project Management (APM) held its annual general meeting (AGM) at the end of November, during which President **Martin Barnes** reflected on an excellent year which saw consolidation of the new governance structure and substantial growth in both individual and corporate membership. New Board positions were also announced at the AGM. The four vacant seats on the Board of Trustees went to new members **Joseph Alba** and **Alistair Godbold** who join re-elected trustees Mike Nichols and Professor Charles Egbu.

Joseph is Head of Programme and Project Management Professionalism within the Ministry of Defence. He is a Fellow of the APM and a Chartered Engineer with an MSc from the University College London. Joseph is the chair of the Competence and CPD panel, as well as being a member of the membership panel.

Alistair is a Senior Programme Manager with NATS and has over 25 years experience, starting out as an engineer on projects, then 18 years on project and programme management in a variety of areas. Over the last 5 years he has helped to lead the further development of the project management capability and maturity of NATS using a mixture of process and capability based techniques. Alistair has also contributed to a number of books on ethics and professionalism including the *APM Body of Knowledge, 5th Edition*.

There have also been several changes to the APM website (www.apm.org.uk) with the APM presence on Linked In and Facebook linked. So those with accounts in the social network sites can join the groups.

Probably of more interest is the new support announced for students with specific links to allow survey populations to complete questionnaires. Two doctoral studies piloted the new scheme but there are plans to provide similar support to Master's level student. APM seems to be putting the building blocks in place for their bid for Chartered status. The year ahead looks to be a critical one for this ambitious plan.



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