

REGIONAL REPORT – UNITED KINGDOM – JULY 2008

**UK Project Management Round Up**

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Terminal 5 Experiences

After all the terrible news about Heathrow's Terminal 5, I approached a trip through this hall of horrors with some trepidation. The route to the new state of the art Terminal was a breeze, straight off the motorway and into excellent parking and then an easy level walk into the main hall. The e-check-in booths were plentiful and the bag drops had no queues so I barely broke pace walking through to the equally available security control before going airside. So far so good!

Once airside, the real improvements over Heathrow's other terminals become apparent. The place is vast, uncluttered and a shopper's paradise with many up market outlets making it seem more like a mall than an airport terminal. There is plenty of seating and the lack of crowding is a real change after the crush of so many airports. The gate layout is a little confusing but the signage is excellent so I found my way with little difficulty.



The return trip was equally pleasant, not something that can be said about many terminals. The size of the place is staggering and is really only apparent when coming up from the MTR that brings you into the main building from the arrival area. The escalators seem to rise to the sky and allow a good view of whole terminal.

So the verdict must be that the 20 programme to deliver a world class terminal for Heathrow has actually been successful with excellent functionality being delivered. Its just a pity that the project management got a bad name from the debacle of the first month's operation. Oh, and my baggage arrived promptly both ways!

Around the Professional Societies

APM

The Association for Project Management (APM) continues to provide an excellent programme of activity for its members with 12 events scheduled for July. These events range from Branch meetings through SIG workshops to full blown conferences so there is something for most project managers. Perhaps the major event is the joint North West Branch and University of Salford 3 day conference on Agile and Lean Project Management scheduled for 14 July. Several world famous speakers, including Hal McComber, will be present at the conference, along with APM Hon Fellow Sir Harold Bernstein Chief Executive, Manchester City Council who provides the key note address. Some places are still available.

(see <http://www.apm.org.uk/northwest/eventLean%20and.asp?pdate=0-0&branch=-101> for details). The event is chaired by PM Forum Correspondent Bob Owen, Senior Research Fellow at Salford University.

Another major event in July is APM Inspire's visit to the House of Lords for an exclusive summer social to mark the start of their third year. The visit is aimed at raising the profile of up and coming project managers. Since its beginnings in 2005 APM Inspire has spread from its London origins to a nationwide initiative, consistently producing high quality and well attended events around the UK through APM's network of branches. Speaking at the event will be the House of Lords event sponsor, Ted Lloyd-Jukes, deputy to



Black Rod, alongside APM Chairman Mike Nichols and Chair of the Inspire Steering Group, Carol Bell keeping members up to date with the latest news from APM Inspire, APM and its programme to achieve chartered status. In addition to the evening event at the House of Lords, APM Inspire is offering a free half day

workshop on "How to achieve Successful Communications". This highly interactive and dynamic workshop will include useful hints and tips to maximise personal impact.

The programme to achieve chartered status enters a critical period as the formal submission to the Privy Council is due to be submitted this summer. Chartered and Beyond is a four year, £600,000 programme with three phases. The first phase covers the Privy Council application process including legal aspects and the formation of a new Chartered Body. The second phase will establish a register of Chartered Project Professionals and the third will develop APM and its capabilities to take advantage of the attractiveness of being Chartered. The phases will overlap. The submission takes the form of a petition in which APM must demonstrate that it has the support of influential individuals and organisations, and that APM satisfies the five Chartered criteria:

- The institution should comprise members of a unique profession, and should represent a significant proportion of eligible professionals in the field for membership, without significant overlap with other bodies.
- Members of the institution should be qualified to at least first degree level in a relevant discipline.
- The institution should be financially sound and able to demonstrate a track record of achievement over a number of years.
- There must be a convincing case that the awarding of the Charter would be in the public interest,
- The institution is normally expected to be of substantial size (5,000 members or more).

APM announced at their recent Education Network Forum that their Academic Accreditation programme is under way. The first MScs have been accredited at Robert Gordon University in Scotland and at Leeds Metropolitan University. It is understood that up to 12 other accreditations are at an advanced state.

APM's Award Programme enters its key judging stage this week. Entries closed at the end of June and some 10 academic projects and more than 60 projects and programmes covering 11 categories have been received and are now in the hands of the Judges for the first round classification. Once the preliminary judging is completed, the final round of judging takes place in time for the glittering Awards Night held with the dinner at APMs Annual Conference at the end of October.

PMI

PMI UK is also active this month with major events planned for each of its local regions. South Region held its inaugural event – a key note talk and workshop on the Art of Great Leadership. Sponsored by Snamprogetti Ltd the evening featured discussion on the topic of leadership as an essential element of effective programme management and set out to define great leadership and how it can make a difference to programme management.

Events for July cover Programme Management, Seven Best Practice Tips at London and South East, while further north, Project Management and ITIL is discussed at the Midlands and North Region. In the South West Region, a half day workshop on OPM3 is running at the end of the month. Further details and booking information can be found at <http://www.pmi.org.uk/events/index.asp>

Academic News

The major academic news is the launch of APM's accreditation programme, but the launch of APM's Education Network also hit the headlines in UK. The UK Higher Education Academy also has a rather longer established Network devoted to Teaching and Learning. The first gathering attracted more than 50 participants from 34 higher education institutes and the second, scheduled for early July looks set to be equally successful. The theme is Knowledge and Craft, exploring the concepts of competence and understanding. For information, visit www.apm.org.uk.



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