

REGIONAL REPORT – UNITED KINGDOM – AUGUST 2009

**UK Project Management Round Up**

By Miles Shepherd

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Economy

Amid reports that International Monetary Fund calculations put Britain's lending to bail out banking corporate mismanagement at 89.9% of GDP, the UK Government continues to send mixed messages on how it sees public spending as the approach to leading the economy to safer ground. One the one hand, the Rail industry is expected to undertake two major programmes – Crossrail, the high-speed cross London and the South East rail link; and West Coast Electrification – which between them will cost more than £17 Bn. Some stimulus package! On the other hand, the regulated water industry have just learned that the Government is capping their price rises, possibly in an effort to appeal to voters in next year's General Election, so that annual water bills drop from private customers. The Regulator has told the 21 water companies to cut back on 'unnecessary spending' on sewerage and pipe networks in order to cut average household bills from £344 per year to £330. This cut in project expenditure does nothing to reduce the enormous water losses through the Nation's elderly water mains or to prevent flooding.

There is better news from the Stock Exchange which has just reported its best monthly gains for 6 years. The construction sector is also expected to benefit from Government support. A single report from the BBC claims that funding to help smaller companies in the industry will lead the sector out of the depression. We remain to be convinced that this Keynesian approach will be effective but these and other significant Government projects are keeping some major employers afloat in these troubled times.

Space

The UK space industry has had a very good month. First, the European Space Agency (ESA) opened its research centre at Harwell and then the Government announced a consultation on the advantages of a dedicated UK Space Agency. Even without such a formal UK Agency, the industry is estimated to be worth about £6.5bn and employs nearly 70,000 people, many in high-skilled engineering jobs. A new report by Oxford Economics, says the industry is expected to grow by 5% year on year and could be worth £14.2bn by 2020. The sector has continued to grow despite the recession and is seen by many as a flag ship for British engineering which has been in decline for many years.

The Space Innovation and Growth Team (IGT), an expert panel launched by the Government last month to review the status of space activity in the country is intended to identify key trends and recommend industry and government actions to take in order to fully exploit the opportunities anticipated over the next 20 years.



UK industry already contributes extensively to European programmes such as the Mars Lander (ExoMars – see picture left). News from Europe indicates a delay in this programme which was originally scheduled for 2011. According to BBC website reports a senior European space executive called at the recent Paris air show for the whole ExoMars industrial programme to be re-opened to competition.

The ExoMars rover was originally conceived as a small technology demonstration mission. Approved in 2008 and scheduled for launch in 2011, scope creep (hailed as more ambitious research plans) led to 'design refinements' and the launch was re-scheduled, initially to 2013. Last year, budget concerns led to a decision to move it even further back, to 2016.

London Olympics

A major milestone has passed for the London Olympics and with it came an update of progress. It is now just 3 years before the 2012 Olympics Games open in London and the construction programme is making good progress. The Athletics Stadium (right, courtesy London 2012) structure is complete and is ready for the next stage in wiring, fitting out and testing. Construction is well under way on all



permanent venues on the Olympic Park, the Olympic Delivery Authority is on track and within budget. The external structure of the Olympic Stadium is complete, the roof structure of the Aquatics Centre is over half way finished and work is also progressing well on the Olympic Village, the Velodrome, the Media Centre and the transport and infrastructure projects needed for Games and in legacy.

To mark 'three years to go', Team GB and ParalympicsGB athletes are joining London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) Chairman Sebastian Coe, Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) Chair John Armitt, Olympics Minister Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP and Mayor of London Boris Johnson on a tour of the Olympic Park.



Lord Coe (left, courtesy Olympics UK), an Olympic Gold Medallist as well as a distinguished politician and sports administrator said, "In exactly three years, London and the whole of the UK will be getting ready to stage the greatest event on earth and we will not disappoint. The athletes who are visiting the Park today will get a small glimpse of the sporting stage that they – and we - have spent the last few years working towards. There is a tangible sense of excitement building and a genuine sense of belief that the Games in 2012 will not only be a source of

intense national pride, but that the benefits will be felt for generations to come.”

John Armitt, Chair of the ODA and APM Honorary Fellow, said: “Building the venues and infrastructure needed for the 2012 Games and legacy is the largest construction project in Europe and three years out from the Games we are on track and within budget.

“The Olympic Park has changed dramatically over the last year,” he continued. “The external structure of the Stadium is complete just fourteen months after construction started and with work well underway on the rest of the site people are now able to get a sense of what the venues will look like in 2012. Though we are making strong progress we are not complacent. The year ahead is a challenging one as activity on site reaches its peak.”

The ODA has also announced that it had delivered on and exceeded some of its ‘The Big Build: Foundations’ milestones and has published the next set of milestones it will achieve by the summer of 2010.

The ‘Big Build: Structure’ milestones to be achieved by next summer, include:

- The structure of the Olympic Stadium, including the roof will be complete, the first seats fitted and work on the field of play will have started
- The Aquatic Centre’s permanent structure and roof will be complete and all 3 swimming pools dug out
- The Velodrome structure and roof will be complete, with work about to start on installing the timber track
- More than half the new bridges and underpasses complete
- The Energy Centre, primary substation, main sewer and deep foul sewer all in operation.

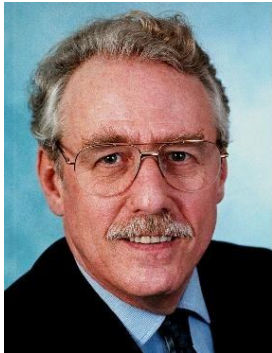
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Finally comes news that the International Institute for Learning, Inc. (IIL) the company is now an Accredited Training Organization (ATO) for the delivery of PRINCE2 courses and programs. A global leader in Project, Program, and Portfolio Management, Microsoft® Office Project, Lean Six Sigma, and Business Analysis corporate learning solutions, IIL's newest accreditation will enable the company to offer an even wider portfolio of project management training for its clients worldwide

PRINCE2® is a proven, process-based approach for project management that provides an easily tailored and scaleable method for the management of all types of projects. The method is the de-facto standard for most UK businesses and is practiced worldwide. To attain this accreditation, IIL underwent a comprehensive approval process to ensure the company satisfied specific criteria set out by The APM Group, the accreditation, certification, and qualification organization for PRINCE2.

E. LaVerne Johnson, Founder, President, and CEO of IIL said "We see PRINCE2® working very well with the PMBOK® Guide in one of two ways: either by providing a proven, best-practice project lifecycle for companies seeking an alternative to developing a methodology themselves; or by complimenting a company's pre-existing PMBOK® Guide-based lifecycle with a rigorous approach to managing the Business Case, Quality, the Project Organization and overall control of the project. The combination of the PMBOK Guide® and PRINCE2 is a powerful recipe for project success."

Richard Pharro, CEO, The APM Group, said, "We'd like to extend a warm welcome to IIL as it joins the select group of organizations authorized to provide PRINCE2 training. The ATO accreditation is a mark of quality for learning providers and acts as a testament to the depth and quality of IIL's course offerings. For global organizations operating in increasingly competitive international markets, the adoption of PRINCE2 as a proven project management methodology can make a significant contribution to successful project delivery."

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Miles Shepherd is a global advisor and International Correspondent for PMForum in the United Kingdom. He is also managing director for MS Projects Ltd, a consulting company supporting various UK Government agencies, nuclear industry organisations and other businesses. Miles has over 30 years' experience on a variety of projects in UK, Eastern Europe and Russia. His PM experience includes defence, major IT projects, decommissioning of nuclear reactors, nuclear security, rail and business projects for the UK Government and EU. Past Chair and Fellow of the Association for Project Management (APM), Miles is also past president and current chair of the Executive Board of the International Project Management Association (IPMA). He was recently named Chair of the ISO committee that is developing the new ISO 21500 Guidelines for Project Management. He was also involved in leading APM's recently published guidelines for project management oversight and governance. Additional information about Mr. Shepherd can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/ambassadors/ambassadors.htm#Shepherd>. Miles Shepherd is based near London and can be reached at miles.shepherd@msp-ltd.co.uk.