

REGIONAL REPORT – UNITED KINGDOM – MARCH 2009



UK Project Management Round Up

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Credit Crunch Impact

As the global credit crunch bites ever deeper, the Association for Project Management (APM) has released the findings of its survey into the impact of the economic down turn on the project management community in UK. So far, the news is generally positive with just over half of respondents reported either no impact or minimal impact. However, over a quarter of respondents experienced some degree of difficulty - 13.3 per cent indicating that their projects had been 'greatly affected' by the downturn. Respondents cited government investment in infrastructure projects as being something protecting project professionals from the worst effects.

It would appear that the businesses are faring worse than projects with almost 40 per cent reporting that the business sector their organisation is in had been affected and some 18 per cent said they had been 'greatly affected'.

Most at risk are smaller firms. "As with all recessions, it will be the larger companies that will be in a better position to survive and, as such, small business will lose out," one contributor said. But even big-name players are feeling the pinch. "Work in the aerospace industry has not seen, as yet, any cancellations of programmes; the main pressure has been on cash-flow and looking to delay spend, especially as this has to funded by the organisation I work for," said another.

Pressure on resources, including people, investment and technology, is also being keenly felt. When asked how they viewed the balance of project management activity in and out of the UK, the majority had experienced a net

export in people, investment and technology. Overall business activity in the export market, for example, was more than double import activity: 32.6 per cent net exports compared to 12 per cent net imports.

Similarly, the movement of people abroad was significantly higher (38 per cent) than those brought-in to work on projects in the UK (14.1 per cent). This trend suggests that the profession in the UK is increasingly focussed on overseas work, as it looks to build on its reputation as a global leader in terms of project management skills.

Indications that the UK was developing as a global project management powerbase were illustrated by more than three quarters (76.5 per cent) said the UK had the strongest project management skills with the USA and North America (68.4 per cent) not far behind.

This looks set to change, however, as the growing influence of China and Asia start to make its mark. Nearly 45 per cent think that there will be a definite shift in the next five years – with a threefold increase in growth predicted in the Asian markets, up from 15.3 per cent to 44.9 per cent in 2014.

The swing towards the East is further illustrated by the fact that respondents felt that the influence of the UK and USA would drop between 12 to 15 per cent. “China is a huge force and can be a very strong part of the ‘project team’. Their own skills in project management are developing very fast, because they do what we say we do!” one commentator observed.

The full report can be seen at

<http://apm.org.uk/page.asp?categoryID=4&subCategoryID=31&pageID=0&action=viewArticle&category=60&uID=&ID=802>

Government launches climate change programme

The government has launched a £1.1 million research programme on climate change. The 4-year AVOID programme will be funded by an £800,000 investment from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and an additional £300,000 from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The programme will be led by the Met Office, and will bring together researchers from the Walker Institute at the University of Reading, the University of East Anglia’s Tyndall Centre and the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London.

In its first year, the programme will focus on providing an evidence base for UK negotiators to secure an international agreement on greenhouse emissions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. The

programme will also aim to provide evidence on the potential consequences of climate change and to support the communication of research on climate change

Olympic News

The London 2012 Handball Arena, that will become a new multi-sports facility in legacy, is on track for construction to start this summer following a meeting 10 Feb where the ODA Planning Committee resolved to approve the planning application. The recommendation will now go to the Greater London Authority (GLA) for approval before permission for the applications is granted.



The Handball Arena, designed by Make Architects with PTW and Arup, features external copper cladding to give it a distinctive appearance that will develop a rich natural colour as it ages. The concourse level features glazing which encircles the building, enabling visitors to the Olympic Park to view sport taking place inside, and illuminating the venue when lit at night. The venue also has a vibrant and multi-coloured interior, with retractable seating to create a flexible space and with 100 light pipes in the ceiling to allow natural light into the venue.

Olympic Delivery Authority Chief Executive **David Higgins** said: 'This takes us a step closer towards a simple, sustainable and flexible Handball Arena that works for Games and legacy. Construction is on track to start this summer on the Arena which will provide a great experience for competitors and spectators during the Games and offer a new facility for local people to enjoy a range of sports in legacy.'



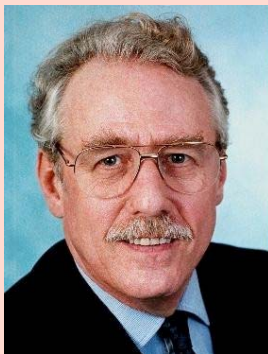
arena after the Games.'

Sebastian Coe (pictured left), Chairman of the London 2012 Organising Committee, said: 'This is another example of the Games acting as a catalyst for change. This facility will be a high-quality venue at Games-time but also provides a legacy for sport in London and the UK. The fact that Handball will have its own arena at Games-time will be a great boost to the sport in this country, and it will be a much used multi-purpose

The Handball Arena will be in the west of the Olympic Park, to the south of the Hockey Centre, within four minutes of the Olympic Village. It will have up to 7,000 seats during the Games, hosting the Handball preliminaries and quarter finals as well as the Modern Pentathlon discipline of Fencing. It will also be the Goalball venue during the Paralympic Games.

In legacy mode after the Games, the Arena will become a multi-sports venue with retractable seating for 6,000 spectators and flexible facilities to hold a range of training and competition events of all levels. It will cater for a wide-range of indoor sports including Basketball, Handball, Badminton, Netball and Volleyball boosting the sporting facilities provided across the Olympic Park.

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