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You can read back issues and sign-up at <http://groups.google.com/group/CESW-Newsletter>

Download pdfs of back issues on the Lean Construction Institute site

<http://www.leanconstruction.org> – follow the link bottom left.

Constructive: A positive approach to construction

Roger Stone, roger.stone@citb.co.uk, the Regional Strategic Advisor for CITB-ConstructionSkills South West and originator of the Constructive idea writes:

From its origins in 2002 as **Constructive Cornwall** this initiative is now operating in each county in the region. A common strategic framework supports the regional Sector Skills Agreement and is based on the three main industry themes of:

- image & recruitment,
- qualifying the workforce and
- business development of SMEs.

Our aim is to work with local contractors to establish a qualified workforce that can compete for contracts within the region that specify a 'carded' supply chain and to encourage and facilitate local people to local jobs.

Each sub-regional partnership has membership from CITB-ConstructionSkills, SWRDA, the local LSC, Job Centre +, FE/HE, Business Link, councils and industry. The series targets all current and future major build projects in the South West and the Repair and Maintenance supply chains. Current projects include the regeneration of Plymouth, Exeter and Bristol, as well as new college builds in Gloucester and Stroud and work on the Cornwall University and the Eden Project. Future projects scheduled include Taunton, Yeovil and Bath regeneration, the new Science Parks in Devon and South Gloucestershire and several major Urban Village developments. The supply chains of all major South West County Councils are linked to the series.

Plans are also in progress to link Constructive with CESW on a future project that will foster best practice, local procurement and skills training.

Constructive SW is a positive partnership approach to addressing skills issues within the industry. It is unique to the South West and has gained status as a CE demonstration of 'Best Practice'.

Do you have experience of Constructive? I'd particularly like to hear short reports from SMEs who have been involved. Drop me a <mailto:alan@cesw.org.uk?subject=Constructive> or give me a call 07968 485627.

KTP – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships – cutting the cost of R&D

In the last Issue I wrote about collaborative research. One way to build your Research and/or Development capability at limited cost is through a KTP (Knowledge Transfer Partnership). For just the cost of a graduate you get someone with relevant skills who comes with the support of an academic supervisor who can add his or her skills and knowledge to those of the graduate.

Your graduate can be from any discipline – it depends on your research interest. Marketing, personnel, project management, logistics, even lean. You decide.

If you want to know more please call Tim Bateman 0117 328 3997 or mailto:Tim.Bateman@CESW.org.uk?subject=KTP_info_please

Lean Steel

Bill Hayley of William Haley Engineering (WHE), a steel designer/fabricator/erector, wrote to me in response to the second newsletter with an invitation to see what lean was adding to their business. I visited their East Brent factory last month. Bill showed me a number of innovations they have made around their factory and with his lean champion Niki Horton talked about the changes on site and in the design office as well as the positive impact on their bottom line.

Bill thinks main contractors have yet to get the lean idea. He'd be delighted to talk about what it means. Ask him. He's got a good story to tell.

There were two things that struck me

1. how simple (and low cost) most of the improvements were and how profound the effects. Just like the lean block in the last issue (http://www.leanconstruction.org/cesw/CESW_Newsletter_4.pdf).
2. that architects and engineering consultants seem to be very slow in taking up nD CAD. I saw WHE draughtsmen taking info from paper drawings to create 3D CAD pictures of the steelwork. Why doesn't the software that designers use at the very least talk to the sophisticated software that firms like WHE use and why don't they use at least 3D CAD as standard — from what I gather from one of my house building clients in the north, it would save everyone time and money — especially when making changes.

I wonder if it would be worth setting up a special interest group to look at this. For more info see next but one item.

Towards Zero Defects

The late identification and rectification of defects acts as a dampener on many otherwise successful projects. Things aren't finished properly or they don't work as hoped (or at all) or completely unexpected events occur. Sometimes the problems are resolved to some degree but recur and cause more problems.

CIRIA has had a wide range of interest expressed in this topic, in response to recent articles on 'zero defects'. There is now an opportunity to participate in a collaborative project. For further information http://www.ciria.org/news_060106_prop.htm

If there is sufficient interest within the region, I would like to set up a **CESW Zero Defects group** that will feed into the national one. Let me know your interest with a mailto:alan@cesw.org.uk?subject=Regional_Zero_Defects after you have registered for the CIRIA group. If we collaborate and make CESW our lead organisation it could be cheaper for all those involved.

It's not the tools, it's the thinking – Lean at NUMMI

When leaders at NUMMI, the joint venture between Toyota and GM in California, talk about their deployment of the Toyota Production System, they say little about the familiar Japanese-named tools. They speak instead about the way knowledge is shared. At NUMMI, learning is inseparable from everyday work. Read the article at: <http://www.sme.org/cgi-bin/get-newsletter.pl?LEAN&20060109&3&>

If you are interested in joining a **lean** Innovation circle please mailto:tim.bateman@cesw.org.uk?subject=lean_innovation_circle

I would like to see a range of **special interest groups (SIG)** develop in the region to enable members to learn and share together.

Paul Read raised **competencies** in the last issue (http://www.leanconstruction.org/cesw/CESW_Newsletter_4.pdf) and has had a useful response. Bristol Club have run a number on topics including Briefing and relations between main and specialist contractors (for a report on the latter mailto:helen@cesw.org.uk?subject=Bridging_the_Gap_please). Bristol club have just chosen their next topic – **Value**. If you want to get involved please mailto:Martyn.Jones@uwe.ac.uk?Subject=Bristol_Club_Value

I wonder if any of the following would be of interest either regionally or at Club level: **3D/4D/5D design - logistics - post-occupancy evaluation - design documentation - process mapping - continual improvement - housing - project £ management - target-cost design - relational contracting - risk & value - Leadership - organisational learning - zero defects – or any other topics.**

If there is a topic that you are interested in please <mailto:Alan.Mossman@cesw.org.uk?subject=SIG>. There are things that CESW and CKE can do that will support groups that are set up.

Steering Groups for Clubs in Plymouth and Cornwall

Steering Groups are now formed for setting up new clubs based on Plymouth and Truro. Both Clubs want to launch in late spring. In the meantime, if you have offers of help, ideas or suggestions please email them to:

Plymouth Club mailto:Chris.Jackson@plymouth.gov.uk?subject=Plymouth_Club

Cornwall Club mailto:Alan.chapman@cornwall.gov.uk?subject=Cornwall_Club

Swindon Club – I am now starting work towards forming a club for Swindon. Let me know if you'd like to be involved in setting it up (or know someone else who might) mailto:alan@cesw.org.uk?subject=Swindon_Club

If you want info about the Club based on **Exeter** please mailto:gillb@buildsoft.co.uk?subject=Westcountry_Club. There are also Clubs serving Bristol, Gloucestershire and Dorset.

Congratulations

Steve Hindley of Midas on his CBE

The team on the **Combined Universities of Cornwall** building on the Tremough campus – one of the seven finalists in the Building Category of the Concrete Society Awards for 2005

Pippa Trout and **Tim Smith**, both UWE Construction Project Management, won the two prestigious Sir Ian Dixon scholarships awarded each year by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) and the Worshipful Company of Constructors. Pippa is now a Site Manager with Rok based in Exeter and Tim works as a Site Manager with Kier Western. Pippa is currently working on a £300k school refurbishment programme and Tim is currently working on a £9.8m school extension and expansion for North Somerset Council.

We'd like this to be a regular. If you have information about national, regional or local awards, honours, etc. for people and organisations involved in construction - or just want to acknowledge individual contributions beyond the call of duty - please let me know. mailto:alan@cesw.org.uk?subject=Congratulations_due.

If this has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future issues please sign up at <http://groups.google.com/group/CESW-Newsletter>

Finally – please tell me what you think of the newsletter, what you want to see and what you are proud of doing to improve the overall construction process – or even just the bit you are responsible for.

Thanks for reading

With best wishes

Alan

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Alan Mossman

Director, Constructing Excellence South West

c/o FBE, UWE, Bristol BS16 1QY

t: 0117 32 83926 m: 07968 485627

o: 0117 32 83016 f: 0117 328 3002

alan.mossman@cesw.org.uk

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