

EBOOK



# UK CONSTRUCTION™ ONLINE



# PUBLIC SECTOR

# ACRYPOL+

FROM ACRYPOL PRODUCTS LTD



CAN BE APPLIED ON ALMOST ANY TYPE OF SURFACE

FLAT ROOFS • ASPHALT • BITUMINOUS SURFACES • BRICKWORK

GUTTERS • LEADWORK • METALS • PVC • ASBESTOS • GLASS

ROOFING FELT • ROOF LIGHTS • CONCRETE • FIBRE GLASS

**ACRYPOL+** is an acrylic resin dispersed in a solvent to form a semi-liquid paste. The coating film dries into a tough durable elastic overlay that prevents the passage of water, yet is chemically structured to allow trapped moisture to evaporate, thus avoiding the formation of blisters. A specific feature is incorporated with added fibres, fibres that act like a built-in scrim. These fibres interlace when the coating is applied – filling and bridging gaps and cracks (up to 10mm wide). The fibres increase the tensile strength of the dry film making it more durable – **A BIG PLUS!**

**ACRYPOL+** is available in two standard colours, Solar White for maximum solar protection of the roof surface, and Medium Grey generally used for day to day patching repairs where it is preferable to blend the coating into surrounding building material colours.

Special attention should be given to the preparation if Aluminium, Zinc, Fibre Glass, Galvanised or Corroded Metal. Refer to Acrypol Products Limited for instructions.



## TECHNICAL DATA

### COVERAGE

1-2kg/m<sup>2</sup> average  
[See application guide, available on request]

### DRYING TIME

2-3 days depending on ambient temperature and ventilation

### FLASH POINT

21oc - 55oc

### SHELF LIFE

Several years with lid secure

### COLOUR

Solar White or Medium Grey  
[other colours available on special order]

### CLEANING

Use Acrypol Cleaner to clean equipment

### STORAGE

Store in even moderate temperature



**ACRYPOL+** roof coating was specifically developed to provide a solution for carrying out the day to day maintenance requirements of those involved in roof waterproofing protection. As with most water penetration problems associated with leaking roofs, the need to carry out remedial repairs is very rarely possible during long spells of inclement weather. This is mainly due to the fact that in order to carry out an effective long term repair to leaking roofs, it is generally necessary to ensure that the surfaces to be treated are completely dry.



**ACRYPOL+** can be applied during damp weather conditions and at the same time provide a long term solution to the problem. The all-weather application properties, combined with the simplicity of application, makes this product a particularly attractive proposition to those employing their own labour for general property maintenance. The versatility of **ACRYPOL+** is acknowledged widely by Municipal Authorities and Maintenance Contractors throughout the United Kingdom.



IN SOLAR WHITE

## ALL WEATHER APPLICATION WATERPROOF ROOF COATING

Available in packs 8 x 2.5kg, 4 x 5kgs or drums of 20kgs



# Construction firms “most optimistic” about economy and Brexit

**ACCORDING** to findings in a newly published report – entitled ‘Business Census 2017’ – the construction industry feels more positive about the economy this year than other sectors, after the impact from Brexit was less negative.

The survey was carried out by the business data website Company Check, covering 1,300 firms during November and December. It revealed that a total of 66% were optimistic about the UK economy in 2017, higher than any other major industry in the survey.

The figure compared to 63% in professional services, 59% in manufacturing and 49% in tech. Only the food and drink industry was higher, yet it accounted for just 4% of all companies questioned.

A quarter of construction firms said the vote to leave the European Union had had a negative impact on their business, with 11% saying the impact had been positive and 61% saying it had made no difference – higher than any other.

Katie Deverill, from Company Check, said: “The Business Census

lets us ‘take the temperature’ of the UK’s construction industry to understand the big challenges they’re going to be facing during the next 12 months. The findings show Brexit hasn’t had the chilling effect that it’s had in other areas, with high levels of optimism for the year ahead.

“However, there’s also high levels of disaffection with local authorities when it comes to them supporting and nurturing business growth. The powers that be should take note of these figures and recognise that something in the current system just isn’t working.”

A total of 64% of construction companies said they grew in 2016, with 74% saying that expected growth this year.

Across all industries that figure was 73%, while just 18% said they feared economic decline next year, making construction the most optimistic industry.

Construction Industry Council Chairman Professor John Nolan has commented: “I am not at all surprised by these figures. My practice registered a substantial

boom in new enquiries immediately following the EU referendum result and that level of increased enquiries has continued. Most of my peers in Built Environment Professions have also reported an increase in enquiries. Our biggest concern now is finding sufficient quality staff to meet this increased demand.”

A total of 25% of businesses said they were affected by the issue of recruitment in 2016, which was the higher than any other industry. The construction industry remains the highest in terms of recruitment concerns in 2017, although at a lower 14%.

In total, 34% said the economy was the biggest concern this year, while 30% said politics. Nationally, concerns about political events almost doubled compared to 2016 for all sectors, with it being named the biggest challenge ahead by one in three (30%) – an increase of 90% on the year before.

A quarter of construction firms believe that the Government is doing a good job of supporting business growth. This compares to 44% in finance, 35% in professional services and 33% in tech.



## UK City of Culture 2021 competition launches

**THE** search for the UK’s next City of Culture has officially been launched by the Minister of State for Digital and Culture, Matt Hancock.

Following on from the success of Londonderry in 2013, Hull was named the UK’s City of Culture for 2017 and it is predicted that this will add £60M to the local economy across the year. It has also stimulated an estimated £1Bn investment in the City since the announcement.

Hull 2017’s launch was marked with a fireworks display which was attended by over 50,000 people and a series of further events which attracted almost 350,000 people. The key driver behind the City of Culture title is to boost tourism and attract investment primarily into the arts and culture sector.

Minister of State for Digital and Culture Matt Hancock said: “The UK City of Culture is not only a prestigious title, but as Hull has shown, it is a great opportunity to use culture as a catalyst for economic and social regeneration. “It showcases the unique identity

of our cities, helps boost tourism, and raises the profile of art and culture. I urge local authorities and partnerships across the whole UK to consider entering the competition and I hope to see plenty of ambitious, exciting and innovative bids for 2021.

“Those interested in submitting bids to be UK City of Culture 2021 are invited to register with DCMS by the end of February. Bids for the 2021 competition must be received by 28 April 2017 after which they will be assessed by an Independent Advisory Panel. A shortlist will then be announced in the summer, before the winning city is announced in Hull in December.”

Phil Redmond, Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel, said: “Having been on the journey from Liverpool 2008, Derry-Londonderry 2013 and now Hull 2017, I am delighted other cities will have the opportunity to bid and build upon the award for 2021.”

Councillor Daren Hale, Deputy Leader of Hull City Council, said: “Hull is already demonstrating

how UK City of Culture can transform the fortunes of a city. For Hull, bidding and hosting UK City of Culture is part of a long-term plan to harness our city’s wonderful heritage and culture to change perceptions of the city, attract investment and create much-needed jobs for local people.

“Whilst culture and the arts are just one part of the jigsaw, we are already seeing huge benefits. Confidence in the city has never been higher and more than £1Bn of investment is flowing into Hull, creating thousands of new jobs. Visitor numbers are increasing, new businesses are opening in the city centre and the volume of positive media coverage Hull is enjoying in the UK and around the world is staggering.

“Winning UK City of Culture has generated an enormous sense of local pride among local people and a renewed sense of confidence and self-belief in what the city can achieve. This started during the bidding process and is why I would encourage other councils to consider bidding to be the next UK City of Culture.”



# ADJUDICATION AND ORAL CONTRACTS

It is now well known that an adjudicator has jurisdiction to deal with disputes that arise under oral construction contracts for construction operations as defined in the Housing, Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009.

This is all great in theory but having “bought and worn the T-shirt” on a number of occasions, I can tell you that in practice it is far from easy to determine what the terms of an oral contract actually are. This is particularly the case in an adjudication confined to

a 28-day timetable where you are presented with conflicting combatant witness statements, more often than not drafted by lawyers rather than the witness him or herself .....but that’s a different topic for a different article to be written on a different day.

In contract or no contract arguments, more often than not, a meeting or hearing is needed to listen to and question the witnesses before you can begin to decide whose version of events you might prefer. But then you might find that the witnesses have been coached within an inch of their lives and you are left wondering why the witnesses

don’t just sell their tools and apply for jobs on stage in the West End? OK, rant over now, the bottom line is adjudicators are being called upon to decide these sorts of cases but what happens when the Courts are asked to enforce an adjudicator’s decision(s) where the contract is alleged to have been formed orally?

Generally speaking, where only two parties are involved in what is alleged to be a contract formed orally and services have been provided by one of these parties, the Court is very unlikely to find that there is not a contract in place. The position is somewhat different where there

are arguments involving three or more parties and there is clearly confusion and conflicting arguments about who has appointed whom and who has provided services.

This type of dispute came before the Court in *Dacy Building Services Limited -and- IDM Properties LLP [2016] EWHC 3007 (TCC)*. The case concerns an application to enforce an Adjudicator’s Decision. The facts of the case are that Dacy became involved in providing building services in December 2015. The problem was that Dacy was initially approached by a company call HOC (UK) Limited (“HOC”) who were performing services as Main Contractor under a contract with O’Loughlin Leisure (Jersey) Limited (“O’Loughlin”). IDM Properties LLP (“IDM”) were acting as the Employer’s Agent under the Main Contract between HOC and O’Loughlin. To complicate matters further O’Loughlin was in a joint venture with a company called Fastmild Ltd (“Fastmild”) and Fastmild was a subsidiary of IDM Investment Holdings Limited.

It was well known to Dacy that HOC was suffering cash flow issues and Dacy argued throughout the life of the adjudication that it never agreed to work for HOC and that it had, in fact, agreed to work for, and be paid by, IDM following an oral exchange between Mr Kiernan for Dacy and a Mr O’Loughlin, which was said to have taken place on 3 December 2015.

Regrettably, it appears that during the adjudication Mr O’Loughlin denied that any such agreement had been reached and it was always understood that Dacy would be working for HOC and not, as claimed by Dacy, IDM. The adjudicator was therefore left with conflicting versions of events as to which party had contracted with Dacy.

Whilst there was no doubt that Dacy had supplied labour, plant and materials to the project, getting paid proved to be something of a problem. Dacy therefore withdrew its labour from site and commenced adjudication against IDM.

From the outset of the adjudication proceedings, IDM challenged the jurisdiction of the appointed adjudicator arguing that as there was no contract between it and Dacy, the Adjudicator could not have jurisdiction.

Although the appointed adjudicator decided on a non-binding basis that an oral contract had been entered into by Dacy with IDM and awarded Dacy payment of its outstanding invoices, the Court was unwilling to enforce the Decision.

In reading the judgement it is clear that the Court readily accepted that Dacy had supplied labour, plant and materials and that HOC’s financial difficulties were well known. It did not, however, believe that an Employer’s Agent would readily accept responsibility to pay a

Sub-Contractor. Moreover, this was a case where there were two possible parties that Dacy could have contracted with and the Court was not prepared to summarily enforce a decision where such uncertainty existed.

So where does this leave us? Well, in cases where there is an argument about whether or not there is a contract, a Court will almost invariably find that a contract has been concluded if services have been provided and will enforce an Adjudicator’s decision to this effect. However, in cases where there is uncertainty about who is the contracting party and the facts and evidence are either too complex or not persuasive, don’t be too surprised if the Court refuses to enforce an Adjudicator’s decision concerning an oral contract.

**Peter Vinden is a practising Arbitrator, Adjudicator, Mediator and Expert. He is Managing Director of The Vinden Partnership and can be contacted by email at [pvinden@vinden.co.uk](mailto:pvinden@vinden.co.uk). For similar articles please visit [www.vinden.co.uk](http://www.vinden.co.uk).**





# Can pre-designed schools solve a shortage of places?

UK CONSTRUCTION'S MATT BROWN SPEAKS TO TIM CAREY ABOUT HOW SUNESIS - A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN CONTRACTOR WILMOTT DIXON AND PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATION, SCAPE GROUP - CAN SOLVE PLACEMENT ISSUES THROUGH THE USE OF PRE-DESIGNED NEW SCHOOLS. TIM IS PRODUCT DIRECTOR FOR SUNESIS.

## What would be the process from a school or body approaching Sunesis with an enquiry?

We offer a free feasibility service - once we've met with you to understand your brief we will analyse your site and its constraints before then producing a Feasibility Report identifying which models are suitable for your site, together with an indication of costs. Sunesis provides a range of new school designs which are innovative, forward-thinking and

provide inspirational teaching and learning environments for current and future generations. Even at this early feasibility stage the cost of the building itself is fixed under the guarantee.

Key to success is listening carefully to prospective and current clients at a time when many continue to face unprecedented challenges to their budgets. This includes public sector clients across the education sector throughout the UK and private sector clients

- particularly housebuilders delivering new schools in areas where they are carrying out developments. Providing certainties for clients with fixed costs and specific delivery dates, so clients know their projects won't be delivered late or over budget, ensures we can give them the guarantees they are looking for.

We will work with you to determine what site-specific abnormalities are present - for example contamination

- and will agree any cost and time impact with you. Once you're happy we then ask for a small fee to cover our consultant's cost to produce and submit a planning application, plus the cost of the actual planning fee itself and any surveys required - for which we will obtain quotations to prove best value.

During the planning approval period, we will quantify and market test any abnormalities before agreeing a final contract sum and programme with you. As soon as planning approval is received, we will mobilise (four to six weeks depending upon the Sunesis model) before starting on-site. We can deliver a 1FE 210 place new school from as little as 26 weeks, and have recently delivered a 3FEN 630 place school in just 39 weeks.

## What is the biggest attraction for clients in building in this fashion?

Cost, programme and performance certainty are the cornerstones of the Sunesis guarantee - each design has a defined layout, an upfront specification, with a fixed cost and known time to construct.

Our model schools are proven, and unlike bespoke buildings, where outcomes are often unknown and design decisions are made in-situ, every Sunesis school offers certainty engineered into every metre.

Sunesis models have been tested and proven to ensure clients will not face any obstacles, delays or problems associated with their design. Recognised by regulatory bodies, insurers and Building Regulations - the design and construction is pre-approved and certified to: BB103/99, BB93, BB101 and BREEAM.

There are many key elements to the designs of the

schools. These include:

- Light, bright, well proportioned and well ventilated spaces that are big enough to accommodate 30 children comfortably;
- Classrooms that have enough electrical and computer points, water and storage to allow them to be self-sustaining;
- Break out areas and group rooms that are well located and facilitate a wide range of small group activities;
- Well located, flexible shared spaces that can be fitted to deliver specialist subjects according to each school's needs;
- Halls and other large spaces that can be used in a number of ways to deliver assemblies, PE, drama, meals and other large group activities;
- A secure boundary and security features that provide effective but unobtrusive protection for site users.

**Is it possible for two schools to have the same core design but still look very different?**

Absolutely. Each model can be 'personalised' by selecting optional extras, each with the same cost guarantee. These include alternative cladding treatments such as timber or brickwork, standing seam roofing, internal finishes and even items such as loose furniture and ICT. We are also happy to incorporate further 'customisation' of the designs if required - for example to respond to customer preference or planning requirements.

**Does the construction process involve off-site manufacturing / modular building?**

Our models are not modular, or 'flat pack'. Instead they each offer a 60-year lifespan no different to any bespoke design, incorporating elements of Off-Site Manufacturing (OSM) where appropriate. For example, the Dewey model is constructed using factory manufactured light-

gauge steel framing panels and cassette floors in conjunction with our OSM partner Fusion.

**How can the BIM model of the building continue to be a benefit even after construction?**

Each model has been developed on a Level 2 BIM platform to help our customers to efficiently operate their new facilities in a cost effective manner.

At the heart of our strategy is the recognition that for BIM to be successful it must deliver 'Better Information Management' - providing our customers with the complete property asset information they require to efficiently manage their property assets post-handover. At handover we commit to deliver an asset data rich Building Information Model, PDF drawings, a COBie asset register and a tailored training programme to our customer's estate team to ensure they understand and can fully utilise the supplied information.

We have also developed a bespoke BIM plugin application to enable us to compare actual BMS operational data across several completed schools. The standardised nature of Sunesis enables energy use trend baselines to be accurately established, and any anomalies identified against the same to determine if a particular school is not operating as efficiently as possible. In such instances we visit the schools in question, to educate the users and ensure the schools quickly return to their optimal energy use.

**How do the buildings rate in terms of sustainability requirements?**

Each of our models are EPC 'A' rated and offer excellent performance in use, leading us to be recently shortlisted for a CIBSE Building Performance Award. We have also achieved BREEAM certification up to 'Excellent'- although certain credits are by their nature site-specific.

**Does pre-designing make the planning process any easier?**

From our experience, yes. Our ability to use our full Level 2 BIM models in conjunction with Virtual Reality viewing have proved to be extremely useful in helping all stakeholders involved in the planning process to visualise what their new school will look like. In addition, we have the ability for interested parties to visit completed Sunesis projects across the country to fully immerse themselves into Sunesis and see the outstanding teaching and learning environments created.

**Is one design more popular than the others or does space dictate choice?**

We currently offer three models - the Keynes2, Dewey and Paxton2 - each offers a different aesthetic and layout to ensure we can deliver across any site and urban context. Of these, our Keynes2 and Paxton2 models have been most popular - the single-storey Keynes2 because

of its centralised 'learning street' and cost-effective pricing point, and the multi-storey Dewey due to its ability to deliver a leading educational environment on tightly constrained urban sites.

**Are there plans for Sunesis to expand into other sectors beyond schools?**

In the short term, we plan to concentrate on our core market, which is education to ensure we offer the best solution possible to our customers. However, the Sunesis approach can bring significant benefits to all major sectors so in the longer term watch this space!

**Does Sunesis operate nationwide?**

Sunesis operates across the UK. To date we have completed projects from Bradford to the Isle of Wight, and from Lincoln to Plymouth. Sunesis is a Joint Venture between public sector owned built environment specialist Scape Group and contractor Willmott Dixon, built

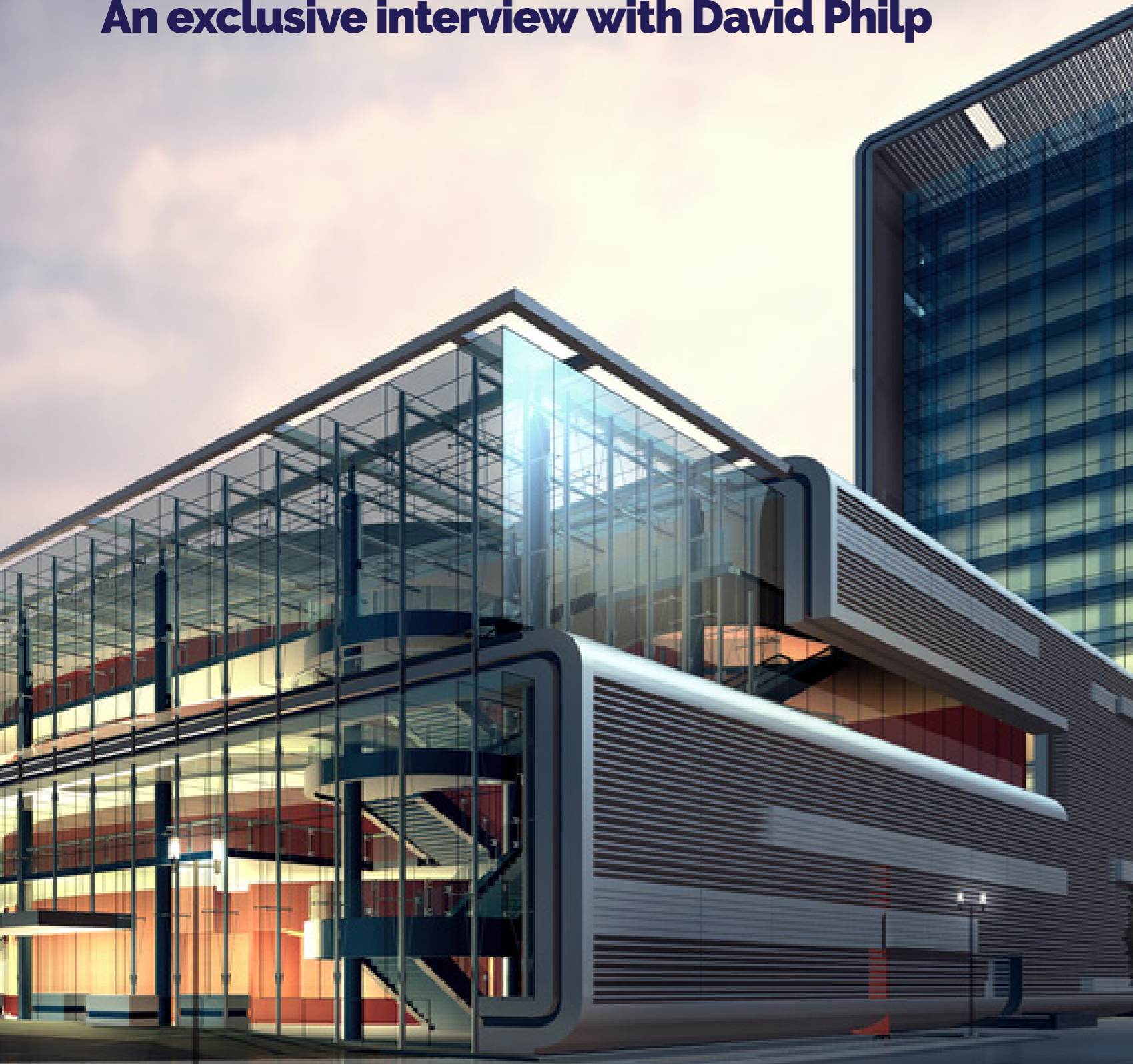
on the combined experience of public sector know-how and private expertise. We can deliver through the Scape National Major Works Framework, any other OJEU-compliant Framework, or direct to the Public Sector - our most recent project was delivered directly to Berkeley.

Sunesis was started in 2010 and since then it has delivered 25 new schools - creating more than 9,500 new school places across the UK. Sunesis currently has a further 15 schools in development.



# The BIM Proposition:

## An exclusive interview with David Philp



### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SCOTTISH BIM PROGRAMME?

A key recommendation within Scottish Government's Construction Procurement review was the implementation of Building Information Modelling (BIM) to Level 2 by April 2017. The review set out the following recommendation which was endorsed by Scottish Ministers:

'The use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) should be introduced in central government with a view to encouraging its adoption across the entire public sector. The objective should be that, where appropriate, construction projects across the public sector in Scotland adopt a BIM Level 2 approach by April 2017.'

The Scottish Future Trust (SFT) are supporting the delivery of these requirements and have created a BIM Implementation Plan. Scottish BIM Delivery Group to support procuring authorities within Scotland to implement BIM Level 2 from April 2017. This roadmap sets out a combination of focused actions including:

- Pathfinder Projects,
- Guidance,
- Training,
- Research

### DOES THE UK'S BIM MANDATE MAKE IT EASIER IN A SENSE TO GET SCOTTISH FIRMS ON THE BIM JOURNEY?

Undoubtedly the HM Government mandate and the creation of the BSI suite of BIM standards has helped create a firm foundation for industry. The BIM requirements of the Scottish Government will further advance this journey in Scotland and create appropriate digital journeys for the Scottish Public Sector procurer.

### CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT HOW SCOTTISH BIM

### IMPLEMENTATION WILL PRACTICALLY BE APPLIED?

We have developed a three stage approach to implementation in Scotland. Firstly the public sector client will, early in the procurement process, utilise the SFT BIM Grading tool to determine the appropriate Level of BIM maturity for their project, either Level 1 or 2. Secondly they use the Return on Investment (ROI) calculator to help inform the business before finally the "How?" which is informed by our departmental specific BIM navigator portal.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SCOTTISH FIRMS LOOKING TO TAKE THEIR FIRST STEP ON THE BIM JOURNEY BUT AREN'T SURE WHERE TO BEGIN?

Get to know the British Standards in relation to BIM, they are free to download and are available via <http://bim-level2.org/en/>. Make sure that you target Level 1 BIM maturity as your first milestone, it is imperative that this foundation is in place before proceeding towards Level 2. Benchmark where you already are in your journey. The SFT are promoting the BIM Compass <http://bim.knowledgesmart.net/sft/> as a useful and agnostic way of doing this. Have a strategy based upon where BIM will give you and your customer's added value.

### IS IT THE CASE THAT BIM IS AS MUCH ABOUT CHANGING PEOPLE'S MIND-SETS AS IT IS ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY?

Yes, it is important that BIM implementation is seen as much about improving behaviours and ensuring better ways of delivery than it is about the technology. Creating more collaborative ways of managing and delivering information is at the heart of BIM. BIM in its various guises is becoming a metaphor for industry change. The client "pull"

is helping drive innovation and set a compelling vision of what a digitised sector would look like using computer readable data.

That said, the technology is the vital enabler and should be given equal consideration. It should however always be appropriate to the outcomes that an organisation wishes to achieve – don't by authoring tools when all you need is a free viewer. Understand what plays you need, create a functional requirement and work from there.

### ARE THERE ANY NEW TECHNOLOGIES THAT YOU HAVE SEEN RECENTLY THAT HAVE GOT YOU EXCITED?

I have seen a lot of improvement in AR/VR offerings which is great. However, I have witnessed some incredible examples of machine learning and cognitive workflows especially around generative design that got me real excited.

### WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK (DCW) AND WHAT INVOLVEMENT DID YOU HAVE?

I was doing a talk on the improved functionality that Level 3 might offer and the benefits that it could enable especially in the operational delivery and how real time data and analytics can support. It was noticeable at this year's DCW that as well as the BIM discussions there was more of a wider zoom out and embracing of a general digitisation of construction, which was refreshing.



# High Speed North: The Case for HS3

**DID** you know, it takes longer to travel from Liverpool to Hull by train than to journey twice the distance from London to Paris?

It's an astonishing admission, one which paints a beleaguered picture of northern rail provision and forms the basis of the National Infrastructure Commission's recent endorsement of HS3.

According to the Commission, the North is in dire need of investment – both in the immediate and long-term future – to reduce journey times, increase capacity and improve reliability. Kick-starting HS3 – the conceptual high speed railway linking North East and West – and integrating it with HS2 is therefore a priority.

Historically, the North has often lagged behind the South in terms of productivity. In 2014 the North East, West, and Yorkshire and Humber regions all had productivity levels less than 90% of the UK average, and 30% below that of London. Poor transport links have a role to play in this, hampering the North's ability to operate effectively as a single integrated economy.

The North makes a sizable contribution to the UK economy however, adding £209Bn of gross value annually – 13% of the UK total. As such, the Government cannot afford to let

the region fall further behind.

For two decades, northern rail has experienced relatively high levels of growth – a result of its renewed importance to the UK economy. Today, that trend looks to have plateaued. Growth has stagnated, and there is now a disconcerting lack of commuters in comparison to alternative methods of transport.

Why is this? Performance is certainly a contributing factor. The Commission has identified several causes for commuter drop-off including overcrowding, inconsistent journey times, infrequent services, and poor quality rolling stock.

According to the Commission, these are issues that desperately need to be addressed and HS3 could well be a way of doing so: "If the North is to realise its ambitions for resurgent city centres with high concentrations of skilled workers, then better connected cities with broad access to markets and large labour pools will be necessary. Improved rail connectivity between the northern cities will play an important part in delivering this."

Of course, the arrival of HS2 – the high speed railway linking North and South – is already set to bring about a host of benefits. Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield will each be directly

served, while Liverpool and Newcastle will both receive HS2 compatible 'through services'.

Transport is but one avenue of the Northern Powerhouse however, as the National Infrastructure Commission was quick to point out. For the North to realise its true potential, the region must first join up with Central Government to lay the foundations for future economic growth and prosperity.

It is not enough to improve connectivity between the cities of the North, the Commission has said. This transformation should form part of a broader strategy – one which incorporates education, workforce training, research and innovation.

Lord Adonis, Chairman of the National Infrastructure Commission, explained: "If the North is to become a powerhouse it has to be better connected.

"Leeds and Manchester are just forty miles apart but there is no quick and easy way to travel between the two. In rush hour it can take more than two hours by car, by train it can be almost an hour.

"So we should kick start HS3 across the Pennines and slash journey times to just 30 minutes. But we must not wait decades for change – journey times should

be cut to 40 minutes by 2022."

Outlining his vision for a more economically robust North, Lord Adonis continued: "A transformed northern rail network should include high speed connections to HS2 and the dramatic redevelopment of Manchester Piccadilly to deliver jobs and investment across the centre of the city.

"A better connected North will be better for jobs, better for families and better for Britain. The work should begin as quickly as possible."

Whether the Government acts on this recommendation remains to be seen. After all, High Speed North was initially commissioned by George Osborne, the now defrocked Chancellor of the Exchequer. Much has changed in the intervening months, and uncertainty persists over the spiralling cost of HS2. Even if the Government were to factor HS3 into its future plans, there won't be much progress this Parliament.

One thing is certain however – infrastructure investment will be crucial if the North is to remain in-step with the rest of the UK.

High Speed North, the National Infrastructure Commission's in-depth findings, can be found [HERE](#)



# The Hendry Review: A sea change for the UK energy sector?

**FORMER** Energy Minister Charles Hendry made waves last month with the publication of a much-anticipated independent report endorsing tidal lagoon power in the UK.

Eleven months in the making, the newly-released Hendry Review was commissioned by the Government to determine whether, and in what capacity, tidal lagoons could contribute to the UK's bustling energy mix.

As such, Mr Hendry and his team considered the cost implications, potential methods of financing, and opportunities for scale in the UK. Visits were made to those places most affected – Swansea, Cardiff, Newport, Liverpool, Bristol and Sheffield – while the Review itself received almost 200 responses to a Call for Evidence.

In basic terms, tidal lagoons

harness the natural ebb and flow of the tides, capturing and channelling sea water through submerged turbines to generate electricity. For many the UK coastline is a hitherto untapped energy resource, though concerns persist over practicalities and wildlife impacts.

Clarifying his position, Charles Hendry said: "I believe that the evidence is clear that tidal lagoons can play a cost effective role in the UK's energy mix and there is considerable value in a small (less than 500 MW) pathfinder project. I conclude that tidal lagoons would help deliver security of supply; they would assist in delivering our decarbonisation commitments; and they would bring real and substantial opportunities for the UK supply chain. "Most importantly, it is clear that tidal lagoons at scale could

deliver low carbon power in a way that is very competitive with other low carbon sources."

While Mr Hendry gave his consent, he also urged caution – favouring a smaller "pathfinder project" over a large-scale tidal lagoon to iron out best practice.

He said: "The aim now is that we should move to secure the pathfinder project as swiftly as possible, so the learning opportunities it offers can be maximised. I have, however, also concluded that the smaller pathfinder project needs to be operational before we move to larger scale projects. This means that a clear long-term Government strategy in favour of tidal lagoons will be required if the full supply chain and cost reduction opportunities are to be realised.

"The costs of a pathfinder project would be about 30p per household per year over the first 30 years. A large scale project would be less than 50p over the first 60 years. The benefits of that investment could be huge, especially in South Wales, but also in many other parts of the country. Having looked at all the evidence, spoken to many of the key players, on both sides of this debate, it is my view that we should seize the opportunity to move this technology forward now."

The Review made a further 30 determinations including a competitive tender process for large-scale tidal lagoons, and the creation of a new governing body – dubbed the Tidal Power Authority – to regulate future development.

Reaction to the Hendry Review

has been broadly positive. Among the first to welcome Charles Hendry's recommendation was Mark Shorrocks, Chief Executive of Tidal Lagoon Power. You may recognise the name - his is the organisation behind the hugely ambitious Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon.

Mr Shorrocks stated: "The Hendry Review has set the final piece of the jigsaw in place: a watershed moment for British energy, British manufacturing, British productivity and our coastal communities. We look forward to working with ministers and officials to bring this new industry to life."

The Wildlife Trust was less effusive however, airing concerns over the potential impact to Swansea's salmon and sea trout populations.

Sarah Kessell, Chief Executive

of The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, said: "We firmly believe that renewable energy needs to be 'right technology, right place'. The development of renewable energy should not be at the expense of biodiversity. The State of Nature report showed 60% of our wildlife is in decline. We cannot accept further loss of important habitats or species."

Of course, the Hendry Review is little more than a recommendation. Responsibility for the best course of action now rests with Energy Secretary Greg Clark and the UK Government. Mr Clark concluded: "The Government's energy planning is focused on ensuring affordable, secure, low-carbon energy. We will now consider recommendations and determine what decision is in the best interests of the UK energy in the long-term."





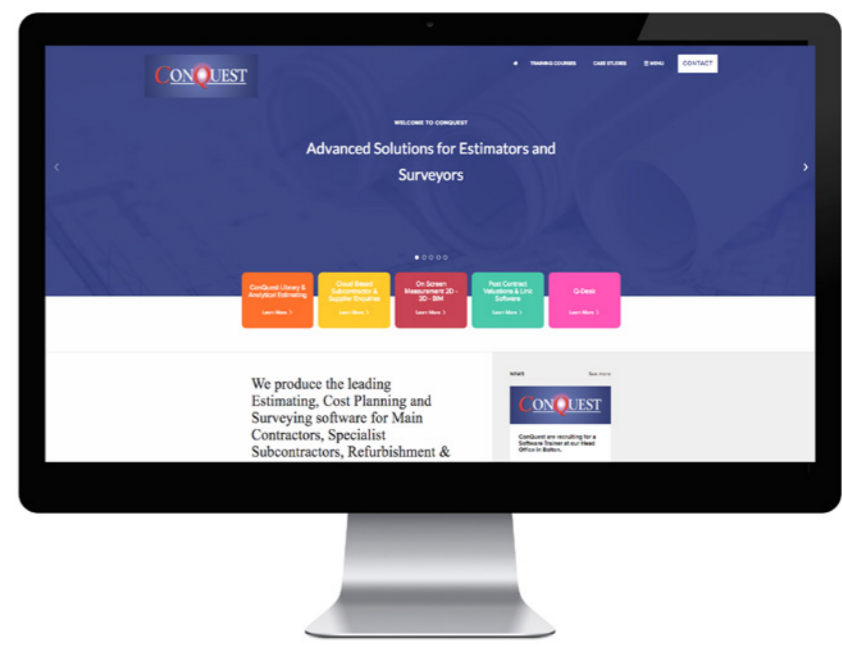
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**THE ESTIMATING SOFTWARE PEOPLE**

# CONQUEST

ADVANCED SOLUTIONS FOR ESTIMATORS AND SURVEYORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



- Produce estimates faster
- Send enquiries faster
- Compare quotes faster
- Take off from drawings faster

**ConQuest will give you more time to think about your tender whilst giving your supply chain more time to respond to your enquiry.**

**Key Modules:**

- ConQuest library containing over 10 million priced items
- Integrated Take off from PDF & CAD Drawings
- Cloud Based Enquiries with dedicated email and instant document creation
- Integrated quotation comparisons module
- Cost Planning Module easily compares elemental rates from past projects
- Reports & Data instantly available for planning & costing systems

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COMMUNITY



STAKEHOLDER



E-BOOKS



VIDEO



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# ***WHAT DOES THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION?***

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**WITH 110,000 CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS EAGERLY AWAITING YOUR GUIDANCE, WHAT WOULD YOU SHOW THEM TODAY IF YOU COULD?**

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For more information please contact us on  
01257 231900 or email [enquiries@promarkmedia.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@promarkmedia.co.uk)

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CONSTRUCTION  
MEDIA



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