" *A consistent set of data being collected from the supply chain and delivered to clients is essential.* "

an Interview with
Mark Bew

Q&A

BIM: PEOPLE MATTERS
15 QUESTIONS WITH MARK BEW
BIM TASK GROUP CHAIR

In this week's interview we meet Mark Bew, Chair of the BIM Task Group who is at the helm of delivering the Level 2 BIM requirements by 2016.

1

Tell us a little about your background?

I served my apprenticeship with GEC Avionics at Rochester Airport in the early mid-eighties. During the recession I thought I would give construction a look and I have been here ever since. I have spent time at Trafalgar House, John Laing, Costain and Scott Wilson in a variety of roles and enjoyed every minute.

2

What lessons did you learn from your formative days in the avionics industry that you have taken across to construction?

The level of precision and attention to detail was in a different world. The stakes are higher in a fighter jet but we still have much to learn. I also lived through the Drawing Board to Level 0 period and it has been interesting to see how similar the challenges of managing process, technology and culture are in all industries. At the end of the day people provide the biggest reward and toughest challenges.

3

How did you get involved with BIM?

I had been involved in looking after a number of drawing management and site systems at Trafalgar House's London building business Trollope & Colls and in 1994 in the aftermath of the London Bombs in St Marys Axe we had the opportunity to redevelop the old Baltic Exchange. I was asked to help put the design management and "3D" proposals together…. and so the story started.

4

How successful do you think the early adopter projects have been so far in realising the hypothesis that "Government as a client can derive significant improvements in cost, value and carbon performance through the use of open sharable asset information"

I think the well publicised Cookham Wood project has been all I hoped for and more. The team have been fantastic and am very grateful to all of them. However I am keen to ensure Cookham's final account reflects all the good work that has been done to date. I am also looking forward to the following projects, especially the infrastructure ones with the HA.

5

What sets the UK Central BIM programme apart from the rest of the world?

It is a privilege to work with such a great team. The BIM Task Group, the Government Team and the Supply Chain have all played an enormous part in this programme. However the leadership shown by the various Ministers and Chief Construction Advisors has allowed us to make the most of the world class talent we have in the industry. I hope we can continue to build on this and see the Growth we need to return the industry to strength at all levels.

6

How important is COBie UK 2012 to the programme?

A consistent set of data being collected from the supply chain and delivered to clients is essential. If we don't keep consistency the supply chain will incur massive cost in waste and reinvention. This approach also allows the client to predict what data is going to be provided and allow them to plan and make use of that data in a productive way.

We also need our data to be of a high quality which requires validation. If you don't have a level of consistency how can you ever validate?

So to answer your question "COBie is essential", but don't forget Level 2 and COBie are about getting a small amount of data from the supply chain to the client to start the process of education and to get practical experience in data management. The world of full interoperability will not appear until Level 3.

7

Can you tell us what does a "data drop" consists of and what happens to the output?

A data drop is the data a client needs from the supply chain at a specific point in time. The definition of this drop in the Employers Information Requirements. The output is used by the client to produce reports or feed other systems such as operations or cost management.

8

There is reference to the Digital Plans of Work (dPoW) in the Task Group Labs on the website, what is it and how is it progressing?

I mentioned the validation of data above and the fact that we need to validate to ensure quality. To achieve this electronically (rather than manually checking, which is complex and time consuming) we have defined a method of providing electronic definitions of the level of data detail we need at each drop. We have also provided a tool to allow you to check your model data with the definitions, thus validating your data – Green OK – Red Not OK.

If you visit http://www.bimtaskgroup.org/task-group-labs-disclaimer you can create your own password and download all of the tools and guides to try yourself.

9

What aspects of Level 2 BIM has been the biggest learning curve for you?

Seeing the diversity of methods that Government departments use to deliver their assets.

11

What do you think that Level 3 can achieve for the Client (if anything) that Level 2 can't?

Further cost improvements.

13

What's your favourite saying or catch phrase?

Rather a horrible ending, than horrors without endings.

15

Who would you make walk the plank?

Anyone else on my dream trip.

10

Are there any plans to start looking at Level 3 BIM yet?

Yes, we have started the planning process.

12

Okay and now about you!

What is the first song on your i-Pod (assuming you have one)?

Wish You Were Here – Pink Floyd.

14

Who would you invite on your dream sailing trip?

My wife Katherine.

Back to Digital Library