



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

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in Building and Construction

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August 2008

CIB Encouraged Journals

ITcon

Special Issue – Call for Papers

Technology Strategies for Collaborative Working



Call for Papers

In recent years there has been a significant increase in IT investments within architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) organisations. Research from other industries, such as aerospace and manufacturing, has confirmed that increased investments in IT have very little impact on organisational productivity unless coupled with good management practices.

In the AEC sector the project context raises additional issues of interoperability for the organisations and temporary project organisations collaborating across dynamic boundaries. Adopting technologies to achieve business targets requires (major) changes in an organisational culture; current practices, systems, processes and people. Whether or not such changes should be imposed on people (top down) or emerge from the needs of the workforce (bottom up) remains an intriguing question. Changes need to be coupled with appropriate management practices and strategies to maintain competitiveness, while addressing various project characteristics.

This special issue aims to address technology strategies for collaborative working and create a platform for disseminating fundamental knowledge to practitioners, researchers and educators alike.

Some of the questions asked include:

- Innovation diffusion within the AEC sector has been seen to be largely reactive. How can (or indeed do) businesses reconcile the contrasting ethos of 'reactive', 'organic' and short-term 'quick-fixes' with the 'proactive', 'defined' and long-term vision for sustaining competitiveness?
- How can the interface of people, technologies and processes within a project environment be improved through the adoption (and adaption) of collaborative communication technologies?
- In collaborative working environments, how are issues related to interface management addressed?
- How can SMEs develop and implement effective and sustainable technology strategies that address the current, emerging and future needs of clients?
- To what extent can technology strategies enhance the rapidly developing disciplines of architectural technology and design management?

The guest editors welcome original contributions that stimulate thinking and help to further understand the appropriate application of technology strategies for collaborative working in construction. Full papers that report the outcomes of major research projects, the practical application of frameworks and tools, and



theoretical perspectives that offer an international perspective are welcome.

Informal enquires and full papers should be addressed to Dr Kirti Ruikar or Professor Stephen Emmitt.

Key Dates and Publication Timeline

- 13 October 2008: Submission of full paper.
- 19 January 2009: Reviews comments returned to authors.
- 16 February 2009: Submission of revised final formatted papers.
- 16 March 2009: Publication of Special Issue on ITcon website

Submission

Authors are requested to submit papers in standard MS Word, or Adobe PDF formats by email to the Guest Editors of this special issue:

Dr. Kirti Ruikar - Loughborough University

Email: k.d.ruikar@lboro.ac.uk

Prof. Stephen Emmitt - Loughborough University

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Maximum word limit for final manuscript is 6000 words. Please follow the standard ITcon formatting guidelines for submission.

Details available on www.itcon.org

Full Details

For full details on this special issue of ITcon and the above call for papers will be available shortly on the ITcon website.

Short Introduction to ITcon

The Journal of Information Technology in Construction (ITcon) is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal on the use of IT in architecture and civil engineering. ITcon articles are submitted and published electronically only. The Journal is committed to minimizing publication delays, and to promoting maximum flexibility in the ways that readers use the journal for teaching, research, and scholarship while maintaining strict peer-review standards.

ITcon is an Open Access journal and its articles can freely and with no charge be read by anybody who has an Internet connection. The copyright of the articles remains with the authors.

From its founding in 1995 until the end of 2006 the journal used the title Electronic Journal of Information Technology in Construction, but the term electronic has now been dropped as superfluous since the majority of scientific journals are nowadays available also as electronic versions.

The operation of the journal is a voluntary effort combining forces of a global community of researchers

in its field, and has its origins in the working commission W078 (Information Technology for Construction) of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB), which latter has also been the official publisher of the journal since 2005 (The publisher was earlier the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden). In 2005 the IT-AEC journal merged with ITcon, further strengthening the journal's base of editors and reviewers. ITcon is indexed in the DOAJ, ICONDA and the ITC Digital Library, and its articles are highly visible in for instance Google Scholar.

ITcon's Editor in Chief is Professor Bo-Christer Björk, Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration, Helsinki, Finland.

ITcon can be found at: www.itcon.org/