A new Task Group, TG83 on “E-business in Construction” has been established. Dr Bingu Ingirige, University of Salford, UK, Prof Srinath Perera, Northumbria University UK, Dr Kirti Ruikar, Loughborough University, UK and Dr Esther Obonyo, University Florida, USA are appointed Coordination Team of this Task Group.

**Background**

ICT enabled collaboration has developed significantly in many industries. To a large extent this development has been enabled and fuelled by the information communication revolution, which has created increasingly integrated global collaborative practices such as e-Business. To harness the advantages of this collaboration, appropriate technologies and social systems need to be embedded within the collaborative process so that the various stakeholders can gain mutual benefits of the shared knowledge. Collaborative working in construction is gathering momentum as many construction activities are performed globally with project actors based in various geographical locations.

Participants in construction such as the contractors, clients consultants, suppliers and project managers perceive a significant increase in these collaborative activities in the future and the structure I set forth to develop with the Internet as the common platform. A steadily growing e-Business environment in construction, fuelled by the next generation web technologies, offer the potential to leverage this area so that the organisations both, individually as well as teams can gain improvements in their performance. Identifying strengths, weaknesses, maturity, barriers and knowledge gaps in this area can benefit and inform policy making in the UK, EU and globally elsewhere so that a programme of actions can be determined for effective investment and resourcing on a long term basis taking this initiative beyond the current technological perspective towards a knowledge-based perspective.

### Objectives

The Task Group objectives are:

- to conduct joint research with interested parties
- to appraise and promote the use of state of the art web-based technologies for collaboration and e-business in construction
- to provide a forum for discussion, debate and evaluation of technologies, research and concepts in the area.

### Work Programme and Planned Output

The three-year programme for the Task Group aims:

- to collect, study and report on case studies and best practices
- to conduct surveys and interviews with both academics and industrialists
- to establish a sustained collaboration between the Task Group Members.

Deliverables include:

2011: templates and modes of operation for international surveys and best practice studies
2011: publication of proceedings from a first international workshop / conference sessions
2012: publication survey outcomes
2012: publication of proceedings from a second international workshop / conference sessions
2013: publication of case studies
2013: establishment of a sustainable community of practice
2013: final CIB Publication and publication in a related international Journal

### Cooperation

The Task Group will operated in close cooperation with CIB Commission W102 on Information and Knowledge Management in Building.
Future Meeting

The meetings of the Task Group will be:
- in conjunction with the Joint Conference of CIB W078 on Information Technology for Construction and W102 on Information and Knowledge Management in Buildings on 26-28 October 2011, Sophia Antipolis, France
- in conjunction with the 19th CIB World Building Congress on 6-10 May 2013 in Brisbane, Australia.

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB TG83 contact the Coordination Team:
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You can find more information on the activities of CIB TG83 in the CIB online Database "Commissions": see here. In the shown search engine type "TG83" in the field "Commission number" and press "Find records".

Statement Coordination Team

E-Business in Construction has been positioned as a major driver offering not only commercial advantages, but also driving innovation in the construction industry. With the expansion of organisation and management of construction activities across several geographic locations and the ever increasing complexity of projects, collaborative working via an E-Business environment is gaining momentum. The construction industry is one which has lowest rates of ICT adoption to its business processes world-wide. E-Business benefits combined with those offered by emergent E-business enabling technologies such as the Internet, Building Information Modelling and Cloud Computing, create significant opportunities for the construction industry that were previously not possible. This is of particular importance to the micro and SME organisations with low capital structures that dominate the construction industry.

Task Group TG83 was established in 2011 to gather critical mass in the area of E-Business in construction. It will provide an internationally recognisable research forum and a platform for collaboration in this area over its three-year mandate. The ultimate objective is to generate a programme of actions to identify best practice and promote E-business in construction. The Task Group will advance E-Business in Construction from its current technological perspective to a more robust knowledge-based perspective.

The coordination team encourages active participation in TG83 by CIB members, academics and practitioners world-wide. The agenda for the three year period is ambitious, but one which the coordination team is totally committed.