

# The Sydney Opera House – leading by example



BY DR KEITH HAMPSON, CEO OF THE CRC FOR CONSTRUCTION INNOVATION

One of the greatest aspects of working with the CRC for Construction Innovation is being part of growth and sustainable change in the Australian construction industry. The Facilities Management (FM) industry for instance, is relatively new, although already directly

contributing over \$8 billion a year to Australia's GDP – and it is not only *Construction Innovation* that is taking notice.

This month sees the launch of two major initiatives for the FM industry; the Australian Government's FM Action Agenda and a major facilities management applied research project with Sydney Opera House that plans to implement a number of its major recommendations.

The Sydney Opera House FM Exemplar Project aims to identify industry best practice using one of world's iconic buildings as a model. As a functioning performing arts centre, tourist attraction and a major State Government asset, Sydney Opera House must demonstrate that its maintenance budget is used effectively in order to provide value for its stakeholders. The choice of Sydney Opera House was well thought out by *Construction Innovation*; it being essential that the building owners play an integral part in the research and implementation of the case study. Significantly, Paul Akhurst, Sydney Opera House Facilities Acting Director, recognised the need to continually deliver value for money as well as a commitment to best practice for the building, thus becoming an essential participant in the project.

*Construction Innovation*, with funding from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, has led the formation of the project team; bringing together the private sector through Transfield Services Australia (TSA) and Sydney Opera House, together with research expertise provided by the University of Sydney, CSIRO and QUT. Importantly, the Facility Management Association (FMA) is also taking a key responsibility ensuring specific industry uptake of lessons learned through this research, while Jason Morris from Rider Hunt Sydney has the task of project managing the process and participant interaction.

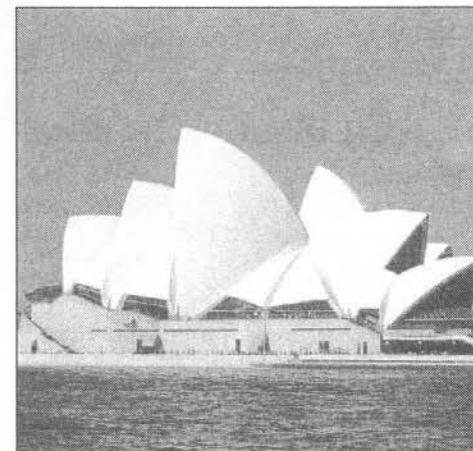
The varied skills of the project participants are all focussed on creating 'route models' which, while designed for the specific needs of Sydney Opera House, can be applied to any class of building. Three key research themes are being investigated: digital interface modelling, procurement and benchmarking under the umbrella of the integration of these into the Strategic Asset Maintenance Plan and the Business Objectives of Sydney Opera House. The aim is to highlight how the interaction between business objectives and the effective delivery of FM services can act as a 'business enabler'.

*Construction Innovation* understands

how essential research and innovation is to a sustainable future for the built environment and is looking forward to sharing the results of this project with the construction industry.

For project or launch information, contact Kylie Legge at march communications on (02) 8399 0605.

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Courtesy Sydney Opera House