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MEDIA RELEASE

Project support tool wins national award



Project Leader John Tsoukas (right) and Daniyal Mian of Arup, of the award winning Project Diagnostics research team.

A world-first technology which diagnoses and provides solutions to under-performing construction projects has won a national excellence award.

Project Diagnostics, developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for *Construction Innovation*, won the 2006 Professional Excellence award for research and development at the Australian Institute of Building national awards on 29 September.

This innovative software, now being marketed throughout the world, identifies specific areas of poor project health, pinpoints the root causes and suggests remedies.

Project Director John Tsoukas, of global engineering firm Arup, says Project Diagnostics serves as an advance warning system which is specially tailored for construction projects that are failing to meet their goals.

“There are five basic questions you could ask of any worked client or project manager: is your project going off the rails? Do you want to know why? Do you want to know what to do about it? Do you want to save the business case? Do you want to avoid bad publicity?”

“If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then they may need Project Diagnostics,” Mr Tsoukas says.

Construction Innovation CEO Keith Hampson says the national award recognised the innovative nature of the software and its potential benefits to the construction industry.

“It enables an industry consultant to assess the construction project’s conduction, pinpoint why it may not be performing to expectations and recommend remedial measures for returning it to good health,” Dr Hampson says.

The technology was developed by a *Construction Innovation* team lead by Arup, Queensland University of Technology, CSIRO, John Holland and the Queensland Departments of Public Works and Main Roads.

The toolkit has undergone a robust testing and refinement process using real-life construction projects from Australia and overseas.

Project Diagnostics assesses whether the critical success factors are on track for project success using a series of key performance indicators. These were chosen because they are easily measured, independent, sensitive, and have broad application across the various project phases, procurement methods, project sizes and levels of complexity. Once a critical success factor is found to be under-performing, the root causes are identified using the further assessment of numerous contributing factors.

Correct and timely identification of these contributing factors allows the project manager or consultant to develop effective, focused remedies. The Project Diagnostics model is cyclic and repeats the investigation until all the identified problems have been ironed out.

This enables the client or project manager to achieve a continuous improvement in project ‘health’ and delivery, Mr Tsoukas says.

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