

Project Diagnostics — advanced warning software

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FOR CONSTRUCTION INNOVATION —

Any construction project can have a 'bad hair' day, but how do you know if this is a warning sign for more critical – perhaps even chronic – underlying problems? Here at *Construction Innovation**, one of our research teams has been working on a solution to just that. The team has developed an innovative and powerful software tool called *Project Diagnostics*. It has the three-in-one capacity to assess the condition of an ailing construction project, identify the areas where it may be dropping below par, and suggest remedial action.

Failures in project delivery can cause adverse impacts such as cost and time overruns, inadequate build quality, legal disputes, poor project relationships and bad publicity. *Project Diagnostics* performs like an early warning system and is based on the critical factors of project success: cost, time, safety, quality, environment, stakeholder value and relationships. By comparing these factors to industry norms, the software assesses whether they may be leading to a successful project outcome. If not, the root causes are identified so that recommendations can be made for getting the project back on track. This process can be repeated over time to provide a cycle of continuous improvement and bring the project back on target for success.

The strengths of *Project Diagnostics* lie in its applicability to a wide range of project phases,

project sizes and procurement methods, and its low cost relative to the potential losses from a failing project. It has been built on a wide array of industry experience and strong academic research, and is based on data from Australian and international case studies.

Final testing and refinement of the tool will occur over the next year and *Project Diagnostics* is expected to be available commercially in mid-2006.

Project team members who collaborated in the development of *Project Diagnostics* were: Arup, John Holland Constructions, the Queensland Departments of Public Works and Main Roads, the Queensland University of Technology and CSIRO.

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