

**CRC report reveals BIM more effective**

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**A NEW project report published by the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation demonstrates that data on the physical structure of a building can be integrated with facility management functions to provide more effective ways of managing the built environment, according to researchers.**

"Adopting BIM for Facilities Management" is the second FM Exemplar Project report published by the CRC for Construction Innovation.

The Sydney Opera House, which attracts an estimated 4.5 million visitors per year, provided a unique challenge for the two-year FM Exemplar Project.

This project was initiated by the Australian Government's FM Action Agenda with support from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and FMA Australia.



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A project team was led by Rider Hunt and comprised the Sydney Opera House, Transfield Services, Woods Bagot, Brisbane City Council, Queensland Government of Public Works, CSIRO, University of Sydney and Queensland University of Technology.

John McCarthy, chairman of the CRC for Construction Innovation and FM Action Agenda, said the project focused on digital modelling, services procurement and performance benchmarking themes as dimensions of the FM equation, which when integrated improved FM's ability to support an organisation's objectives.

"In the report our research outcomes were then aligned within the broader context of Sydney Opera House's total asset management plan in support of their organisation's business enterprise," he said.

"Adopting BIM for Facilities Management" was launched at the recent Royal Australian Institute of Architects conference and provides a comprehensive overview of the digital modelling research stream of the FM Exemplar Project.

The report focuses on the application of information communication technology platforms with specific emphasis on building information management (BIM) utilising an open standard model sharing such as industry foundation classification.

According to the CRC for Construction Innovation, the research demonstrates significant benefits in digitising design documentation and operational and maintenance manuals, and focuses on:

- Re-usability of standardised BIM for FM purposes;
- Potential of BIM as an information framework acting as an integrator for various FM data sources;
- Flexibility of BIM to cope with business-specific data and requirements;
- Commercial FM software using standardised BIM;
- The ability to add organisation-specific intelligence to the model; and
- A roadmap for Sydney Opera House to adopt BIM for FM.