

# Facilities management takes centre stage

The Sydney Opera House – Australia's most famous landmark and one of the busiest performing arts centres in the world – has taken centre stage as the case study for award winning research for the facilities management (FM) industry.

The FM Exemplar Project: Sydney Opera House, was completed late last year, representing the output of 23 participants from 10 organisations across three research streams.

The final report integrating digital modelling, services procurement and performance benchmarking was entitled FM as a Business Enabler.

The FM Exemplar Project: Sydney Opera House, has received the Facility Management Association of Australia's Rider Hunt Terotech Industry Achievement Award for excellence in facility management strategy and practice.

The award was presented at the FMA Australia ideaction 2007 conference gala dinner in Sydney.

The digital modelling component of the FM Exemplar Project research also featured in two recent Arup-sponsored international awards – the Jury's Choice category of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Technology in Architectural Practice (TAP) 2007 Building Information Model (BIM) awards, and the Bentley Awards for Excellence 2007 award for BIM in multiple disciplines.

The FM Exemplar Project: Sydney Opera House, was initiated by the Australian government's FM Action Agenda, as part of a strategic framework for managing the built environment.

The research, supported by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, undertaken by the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation in collaboration with Rider Hunt, Woods Bagot, Transfield Services Australia, Sydney Opera House, FMA Australia, Brisbane City Council, Queensland

Department of Public Works, CSIRO, Queensland University of Technology and The University of Sydney.

The project was led by Stephen Ballestry, director of Rider Hunt, deputy chairman of the FM Action Agenda

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and immediate past chairman of FMA Australia.

Bob Baldwin MP, Parliamentary secretary to the minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, said: "The Sydney Opera House FM Exemplar Project not only helped protect Australia's most iconic building but also contributed to the body of FM industry knowledge.

"The Sydney Opera House FM Exemplar project was initiated by the Australian government's facilities management action agenda, as part of a strategic framework for managing the built environment," Mr Baldwin said. ■