IREA Desal Records and Document Management Case Study

Systems and processes need to be accessible and transparent so that everything runs smoothly. This was why UniPhi was employed.

Background

The Melbourne desalination plant is a Public Private Partnership between the Victorian Government's Department for Sustainability and Environment and Aquasure. It will be the largest desalination plant in Australia, supplying 150 billion litres of water a year to Melbourne, Geelong and some regional communities. That's enough fresh water for about one third of Melbourne's household and industry needs, without relying on rain.

The plant will be one of the greenest in the world by using:

• Renewable energy to offset 100 per cent of operational power
• World-leading energy recovery devices to reduce power consumption, and
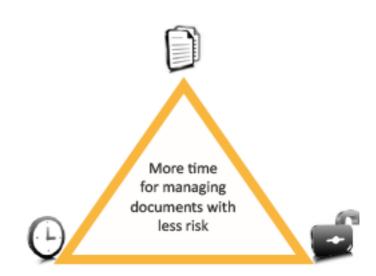• A unique design with living green roof and new coastal park

Davis Langdon, an AECOM company, partnered with MWH to provide the state government with independent verification and environmental auditing services on the project. It is Davis Langdon's role in this partnership to set up the document control processes to manage the workflow of the joint venture.

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More time for managing documents with less risk

The Challenge

The independent reviewer and environmental auditor (IREA) is the chief quality assurer for the government during design, construction, testing and commissioning the plant. This means its systems and processes need to be transparent, robust and have their own in-built quality control points.

The IREA faced several risks in the selection of a system to support its processes. Stakeholder communications can vary greatly as the project progresses and the need for quick responses to press releases, site investigations and other client information requests is paramount.

Users of the system were from multiple organisations, a complex system that required significant levels of training would have been resisted and led to shadow systems being used with a resulting loss of transparency.

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>
> Judi Gardener - AECOM

The Solution

UniPhi takes workflow to a more practical level and creates transparency in documentation and records management that makes auditing business processes simple and efficient. This has enabled the IREA to focus on their key job of reviewing design documents, surveying construction and certifying progress.

Some of the key features utilised to meet document control demands are:

• Simple integration with construction companies document management system via web links and MS Outlook integration.
• Records management workflow where all the actions, documentation and responses to a design or construction package can be viewed in one screen
• Document version control, transmittal registers and digital sign off to ensure that the latest document is used for review

• Programme reporting on number of activities completed in a time period, witness reports and design reviews conducted etc.

In addition to the document and records management, The IREA joint venture has been able to utilise some of UniPhi's other features like timesheets and contract administration to track their overall fee on the job and measure overall project performance.

UniPhi tracks each IREA team member's time and compares this to budget hours on the job. This is converted into Actual and Budget $ values using standard cost and revenue rates. UniPhi's reporting capability is then utilised to produce "S" Curves and other trend based financial reports for the IREA management to review.

The Results

The ultimate goal was for a simple and flexible system that allowed for changing requirements as the project progressed. This goal has been exceeded through the use of UniPhi's unique program management functionality.

Key to the success of this deployment has been the flexibility of UniPhi. Large, high profile government projects are a moving fast in terms of reporting requirements. UniPhi enables the IREA to be confident in their reporting and efficient in its supply.

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About Davis Langdon, an AECOM company

With the combined strength of AECOM and Davis Langdon, an AECOM company, our Program, Cost, Consultancy experts provide cost consulting, project management and associated specialist consultancy services to private- and public-sector clients all over the world.

Our PCC specialists deliver a comprehensive suite of construction consulting expertise, providing services that focus on reducing client risk, improving value and assuring outcomes on projects in all market sectors of the built, social and natural environments. We structure ourselves around our clients' sectors to provide industry relevant advice and it is our ability to provide specialists and not generalists that adds real value to a project and sets us apart from our competitors.

While our roots are in technical delivery, our offer always contains a strategic component created through the use of specialist in-house knowledge and delivered via custom-made client teams. Our practice areas include, but are not limited to:building surveying; cost management; capital allowances consulting; design management; development management; facilities management; health and safety consulting; legal support; management consulting; market intelligence; people, place and performance consulting; project management; property consulting; specification consulting; sustainability consulting; valuation services; and value and risk consulting.

About UniPhi

UniPhi is a software company that builds mobile and web based applications for working in a project environment. Our suite of solutions covers the end to end life cycle of projects and engages with all people working within that environment.

The key benefits to UniPhi's solutions are:

– Transparency of information
– Real time data entered once used many times
– Integrating both people and information
– Fostering Collaboration