

News in brief

Roads of success

WEST Sussex County Council has extended its implementation of the Contract Change Management system (CCM) on the £16 million Crawley-Horley-Gatwick fastway infrastructure project. CCM was developed by APM corporate member Needlemans MPS and has been in use at West Sussex since spring 2002. Its use is also being championed in two other local authority areas, for the Walthamstow Gateway and for the Mansfield Ashfield regeneration route in Nottinghamshire.

Big win for Xansa

IT systems development, support and associated services for the government's Learning and Skills Council will be provided by Xansa. The three-year contract has a potential value of £38 million. Xansa has been working with the LSC since it was formed in March 2001. The systems being installed will also better communication and information exchange with learning providers.

News

OU reviews estates

A CORPORATE member of APM is helping another to make the most of its capital projects.

The Open University, the largest higher education institute in the UK, has called in Hornagold and Hills to review and enhance its estate procedures, allowing the university to deliver capital

projects with greater efficiency.

The project includes analysing existing processes, undertaking a process mapping exercise and benchmarking against industry best practice to identify areas for improvement.

Estates procedures and supporting documentation will be developed, new procedures

implemented and a training strategy developed for the Open University's estates department.

With more than 200,000 students and customers, representing 22 per cent of all part-time higher education students in the UK, the Open University is based in Milton Keynes with13 regional centres.

EV event was on track for success

MORE THAN 100 people took part in a conference hosted by Network Rail and aimed at closing the gap with Earned Value Management (EVM).

Held at the Euston Station headquarters of Network Rail, the invitation-only event was for members and guests of the Engineering Project Management Forum associated with the transport industry and known users of EVM.

Chief executive of Network Rail, John Armitt, headed the line-up of speakers which also included representatives from construction, air transport, engineering, academia and APM's Earned Value specific interest group. Special guest speaker was Alexandre Rodrigues from Portugal.

The day was organised and chaired by Steve Wake, chair of the Earned Value SIG and of the EPMF, with assistance from Shelley Winfield of Network Rail.



FINDING OUT: Year 9 pupils at High View School in Derby discover that engineering can be fun, with help from Tim Wilson (back left) and Tim Benson (back right) of APM corporate member Scott Wilson.

Building bridges

GRADUATE trainees from the new Derby office of Scott Wilson went back to school to build bridges.

In support of National Construction Week, Tim Wilson and Tim Benson visited High View School and Technology Centre in Breadsall, Derby, to talk to year nine pupils about civil engineering. They then set the students a task to build a bridge from balsa wood, string and glue.

The visit was part of Scott Wilson's ongoing commitment to introduce schoolchildren to engineering as an exciting and challenging career option. Said Derby office director, Chris Nicholas: "We want to raise awareness about the fantastic and exciting opportunities in our industry so that engineering will get its fair share of the bright new talent when these youngsters leave school."