

Media Release

28th August 2014

Benchmark Estimating Software selected for major European road projects

Not for the first time an Australian-developed software is out gunning competitors on the international scene. Benchmark Estimating Software for engineering and construction projects, with their Head Office in Sydney, has been selected by [Colas Group](#) in Vienna for all its projects in six central European countries.

Colas Europe Centrale is one of the largest road construction companies in the region with an annual turnover of USD \$900 million. It is part of the French-owned Bouygues Group, one of the world's leading construction companies.

Boris Grintal, Chargé de Mission for Colas Europe Centrale, began his search for suitable estimating software in 2013 to replace the various spreadsheet applications used in the six countries – Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia and Slovakia. Through the company's operation in Australia he was introduced to Benchmark Estimating Software which he decided was superior in many ways to other estimating systems.

"We needed software dedicated to price calculation, not accounting, and above all, we needed software that could easily be translated into several European languages," said Boris Grintal.

"In under three weeks, the people at Benchmark provided us with sample translations to the software and the documentation. They showed us the sophistication of the software and answered all our requirements. We saw the power of the Item library, the Routines and how Benchmark would be translated into the languages we needed.

"We could see that Benchmark would allow us to play with selling costs after estimating direct costs, and factor in resource costs. It also allows us to manage composite items and several levels of sub items, and variations can be addressed in minutes.

"Probably the most impressive aspect of the trial was the flexibility demonstrated by Benchmark. It is unusual to find such flexible partners who try to answer all your concerns."

Following training sessions in March and June this year, Benchmark Estimating Software was rolled out across the six countries.

Control was also a major factor in the decision to use Benchmark because it can assign different authorisation levels to different estimators.

"With some help from Benchmark's technical people, we found it surprisingly easy to get the software up and running across the six countries and there is now a reassuring level of consistency across our 50 or so estimators, despite their different skill sets and languages," said Mr. Grintal.

“Now we are finding that we get much better business reports with more useful information that we can apply to future projects.”

Benchmark estimating software was developed 18 years ago and is now used by more than 2,500 estimators in different industries and over 15 countries. It offers a complete front-end business solution including estimating, quoting, marketing, progress claims, variations, project reporting and job costing.

Marketing & Product Manager, Nigel Watts, believes that the success of the software lies in the fact that it is so flexible and simple to use.

“Despite the fact that it is very powerful software, it can help you price any project and it streamlines the cost estimating process. By using Benchmark, Colas can develop a reputation for fast, accurate quoting which will help them to win bids. Colas is able to work across a large geographical area, in a range of languages and still have one robust system. Having a singular system means that there is consistency within their estimating and means everyone is speaking the same estimating language.”

Benchmark Estimating Media Contact

Nigel Watts – Marketing & Product Manager

Phone: +61 2 4969 8435

Email: Nigel.Watts@benchmarkestimating.com

About Benchmark Estimating:

Benchmark Estimating is a privately owned company formed in 1996 and has its headquarters in Australia. The company develops and supports estimating software solutions for private and public organisations involved in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets. The flagship product, Benchmark Estimating Software, is designed to facilitate fast, accurate and consistent cost estimates for all types of projects. The company also provides a range of services including consulting, training and implementation.



For more information, visit: www.benchmarkestimating.com

About Colas Group:

The Colas Group operates in every aspect of construction and maintenance for roads and for other types of transport infrastructure, as well as on projects involving urban development and recreational facilities. The Group boasts two operational segments: Roads, its core business, and Specialized activities that are complementary to its Roads sector. Colas undertakes about 110,000 projects every year via a network of 800 works centers and 1,400 material production sites in some fifty countries worldwide.



For more information, visit: www.colas.com