

Benchmark breaks into Europe

Sydney-based Benchmark Estimating Software has celebrated success after its price estimating solution was chosen by a major European road construction company to assist with a range of projects across six countries. By **Marion Lopez**

The software provides rail, road, civil and utility projects with a complete front-end business solution for estimating, quoting, marketing, progress claims, variations, project reporting and job costing.

It is being utilised across a number of projects under construction by French developer Bouygues-owned Colas Group across six European countries comprising Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Benchmark Estimating Software marketing and product manager Nigel Watts said the company's solution was selected for its capacity, simplicity of use and ability to break down language barriers.

"Despite the fact that it is very powerful software, it can help you price any project and it streamlines the cost estimating process," he said.

"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 estimating and means everyone is speaking the same estimating language."

Following training sessions conducted earlier this year, Benchmark software has now been fully rolled out on projects across the six countries.

Colas central Europe manager Boris Grintal said the group was happy with the service and solution provided.

"We needed software dedicated to price calculation not accounting and, above all, we needed software that could easily be translated

into several European languages," he said.

"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.

"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.

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

Colas is one of the largest road construction companies in the central European region, with an annual turnover of \$US900 million (\$A990 million). **C**

SPECIALITY PIPING SOFTWARE CHOSEN FOR QLD PROJECT

ENGINEERING and geospatial software company Integraph's 3D plant design and modelling solution, CADWorx Plant Professional, has been chosen to deliver two major oil and gas projects, including one in Queensland.

The software was chosen to help integrated downstream oil company Puma Energy's fuel

import terminal in Mackay, Queensland, which the company hopes will strengthen competition and supply in Australia's fuel market.

It was also selected to help deliver BP's Shah Deniz 2 project in the Caspian Sea, offshore Azerbaijan, one of the largest natural gas field developments in the world, which will deliver 212 billion cubic feet of natural gas a year to Turkey plus another 350Bcf to European

markets. The software was chosen due to its ability to help allocate unique part details to all piping components in order to integrate with finance and procurement systems.

Selected for the task by Process Group, senior piping designer Paul Tautor said Integraph's software was the best fit as it was both autoCAD-based and provided a range of new and powerful features.