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CONSTRUCTION software & IT



DESIGN

IS SOUTH AFRICA READY FOR BIM?

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ELECTRONIC TAKE-OFF SOFTWARE

NMC embracing effective IT-Solutions

With the recent interest shown from various construction companies in South Africa to improve their hosting infrastructure and collaboration technology I took the occasion to visit the NMC Construction Group, a local construction group to investigate their current systems that they have in place to manage their organization and projects they are involved with.

The NMC Construction Group, established in 1983 is a multi-disciplinary construction group with a national footprint and SADC presence. The organisation operates within both the civils and building infrastructure. The NMC Construction Group is committed to the continuous improvement of its operational management systems, including the ongoing review of its IT-solutions. In my research I found that the group has stayed true to this commitment utilising very current technology from as early as bid presentations, all the way through to construction. Examples include; 3D modelling used to illustrate construction methodology for bid presentations where complex elements within the construction process are presented to potential clients. NMC has also utilised drones for aerial construction progress recordings in the past, in conjunction with various clients.

The success of the recently completed Andringa Walk Apartments (AWA) is largely due to the use of effective information technology solutions. The scope of work for the project consisted of the construction of 114 designer apartments on top of the Eikestad Mall. The Andringa Walk Apartments was the fourth and final phase in the R 116 million Eikestad Urban Renewal Project in



Stellenbosch – with NMC being the main contractor on all four phases. Synergy Document Management system from Iqela Software Solutions provided the information management system used for this project, in collaboration with the client's design team. The web-based system allowed the team instant access to information and streamlined communications between the client and the NMC team.

CCS Candy Estimating application was used for reporting, programming and financial management. CCS's Quantity Take-off (QTO) module was used as a direct drawing measuring tool to establish valuation of works on the project. In addition, the AWA team had access to weather data from a wireless weather station on site. The weather station transmitted real time meteorological weather data, and historical data could be accessed when the team required it.

The NMC Construction Group further utilises an ISO accredited internal document management classification system. All business and project related documentation is stored and recorded on this system. This system, managed internally by NMC, due to the decrease in hard copy filing the system has radically reduced the carbon footprint not only on the AWA project, but that of the group as a whole.

"The AWA project presented the team with various challenges during the construction process. Effective record keeping, utilising reliable software and good document management systems definitely played a big part in the ultimate success of the project." Johan Bezuidenhout, Contracts Manager. ■



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