

Title: Internet-based project management in the UK and German construction industry

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Purpose:

Current project management practices in construction projects have several limitations and inadequacies that often lead to a poor project performance. Improvements regarding communication and adoption of IT are necessary to help overcome these limitations. Internet-based Project Management (IBPM) software addresses some of the problems. It provides a central place for storing and accessing all project relevant information and aims to improve communication, coordination and collaboration of the various companies involved in construction projects. During the past few years, the market of IBPM software has grown tremendously and the products are being employed on a variety of projects. However, despite the initial euphoria and high expectations regarding this new way of project organisation, a lot of attempts to use an IBPM system have not been successful and some issues have become apparent that inhibit to gain more benefits out of its application. This dissertation analyses in how far Internet-based Project Management is suitable to enhance the management of construction projects. It provides background information about the functions that IBPM systems offer, the systems that are available at the moment, and an analysis of the technical, legal, organisational and human factors that affect its application.

Methodology:

A survey among construction companies in the UK and Germany was conducted to assess the current level of awareness and general opinion of project participants together with the experienced benefits and problems regarding IBPM. In addition, three case studies present in-depth views of project managers to find out about the contribution that project extranets make to their job and the projects.

Findings:

The analysis shows that while IBPM has the potential to substantially enhance the management of construction projects, several issues have to be addressed to ensure a successful implementation.

Classification: Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)