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Author: Punitha Govindasamy

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Aconex solutions to enhance Marina Bay Sands project

Marina Bay Sands integrated resort has selected the Aconex document management and collaboration service to enhance the smooth running of the ongoing project works.

Aconex will provide a central, web-based platform for storing and sharing project documents and correspondence, with which team members can view, track and distribute their files online in real-time, from any location and at any time.



Leigh Jasper (left), Aconex Chief Executive Officer, said, "Marina Bay Sands is a world-class development in terms of scale and ambition that will involve collaborations from Hong Kong, Australia, Singapore, the United Kingdom, China as well several locations in the USA.

"Having organisations based in several countries makes it more challenging to control the thousands of documents and correspondence items that flow amongst the project team. By managing information online, Aconex will streamline this process and help link geographically dispersed team members."

Other projects that have been using the Aconex solution to manage their projects include the Saigon Pearl in Vietnam, the Four Seasons Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and the Helios Oil Terminal with McConnell Dowell in Singapore.

McConnell Dowell

The McConnell Dowell (MCD) Helios terminal project in Singapore is a development that involves the construction of a 450,000 cu m oil storage terminal. Comprising 18 oil production tanks, the bunker is located on Jurong Island's petroleum hub. MCD's section of the development is valued at approximately US\$95 million, with the total development including jetties and tanks being valued

at US\$150 million.

MCD used Aconex to streamline their document review processes and collaborate with more than 70 external organisations. Over the project's first 15 months, more than 400 internal and external team members used the system to manage 46,000 documents and 24,000 pieces of project mail, resulting in 25 gigabytes of data being securely stored on the system.

MCD also manages its tendering and procurement documentation electronically using Aconex. Using a web-based system to manage and track vendor docs was particularly beneficial when working with international organisations.

"We primarily used Aconex for collaborating with our subcontractors and suppliers," said Jonathan Scott, Engineering Manager at McConnell Dowell. "If the purchase order was in excess of about US\$50,000, we'd insist they use Aconex. We had suppliers in France, Germany, the UK, Korea, Australia and Singapore, so managing this online with Aconex speeds up the submission and approval process by cutting paper transmittals. The result is much less work at our end and, because everything is traceable, it's fool proof."

Managing risks

Mr Jasper said that initially using Aconex meant significant time and cost savings to their clientele, "Now our customers say they are managing risks better after using Aconex for their projects. They have been reporting of less litigation and less defects since they started using our solution."

"We don't see ourselves as a software company but more of a solutions services company," he added.

Aconex achieved 100 percent growth in each of the last five

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years and Mr Jasper is expecting 2008 to show a 70 percent growth with business thriving in China, Hong Kong, Macau, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, North Africa and the USA. Aconex has 40 offices worldwide servicing projects with a combined value of US\$210 billion.

“Aconex has over 330 people employed globally and I expect continued growth across many regions. We invest heavily in the local service teams as we appoint a local trainer in every country where we have a presence,” he said.

Southeast Asia is a market where uptake of online collaboration is growing rapidly, according to Aconex, which is currently working with project teams in Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines in addition to Singapore. For the future, Mr Jasper says Aconex will be expanding to Spain and continue to expand in Southeast Asia.

For a company whose biggest competitor is the status quo, the booming construction industry in Singapore and neighbouring countries is very promising. ■



The Helios Oil Terminal in Singapore.