#### **Engineering the future**

#### Dheeraj Bhardwaj, PhD, MBA Innovation Strategist, Laing O'Rourke Visiting Fellow, Imperial College Business School



# Laing O'Rourke

Laing O'Rourke is the largest privately owned construction solutions provider in the UK. Formed over 30 years ago, the Group's international operations posted managed revenue of £4bn in 2011.



# **Buildings vs Infrastructure**



© Laing O'Rourke 2011, all rights reserved



# **Parallels with PC/Computer Industry**

- Performance has changed dramatically
  - 286 PC to i7 processor
- Price hasn't change

**Innovation for Growth?** 

OR

**Innovation for Demand Creation** 





# **Complete Thinking**

# **Predictability Cost** = Material + Plant + Labour





# **Materials**

- Carbon Negative Cement (e.g. Novacem TSB funded)
- Aggregates from waste (e.g. SILAC-G TSB funded)
- Concrete
  - Think product not concrete as a material (e.g. Nuclear)
  - is it suitable for manufacturing?
  - Self healing? Self cleaning? Self maintained?
- How about non-concrete structural materials
  - Learn from other industries



# **Materials**

- Lightweight structural components
- How about the use of textiles in infrastructure??
- De-icing of road
- De-icing of airport runways and aircraft parking bays
- Energy harvesting/storage materials?



# **PLANT AND LABOUR**



DfMA strategy: to deliver projects differently

#### Yesterday:







DfMA strategy: to deliver projects differently

#### Today:







DfMA strategy: to deliver projects differently

#### Today:







#### **Explore Industrial Park**

#### Europe's most advanced manufacturing facility for concrete products



#### Automation in construction



©Luajng ଭାRounka 201 lesalletights reserved



# **Our Vision**



<sup>44</sup> Transforming traditional construction methodologies into a modern process of assembly <sup>37</sup>



**Automation in Construction** 

# •Use of robotics systems





#### **Automation in Construction**

- •Logistics Challenges
- •Monitoring and sensing
- •Use of SCADA, GPS, GIS, telemetry etc





# **BIM** – nD modelling

• We build project twice first digitally then physically



- Vision nD modelling. Single model environment
- Computer vision and Augmented reality
- Wireless sensors, RFID, Fibre Optics etc.....



# **Geotechnical Challenges**

- Understanding geology better
- Capturing 4D information
- Measuring and monitoring tools and techniques
  - Optical fibre instrumentation in foundation piles
- Optimised design
- Geothermal Energy





# **Systems Engineering**

- Systems of pieces built by different subsystem groups did not perform system functions
  - Often broke at the interfaces



Photo from Dec 1999 Civil Engineering magazine

*Systems engineering* is a robust approach to the design, creation, and operation of systems.

The approach consists of:

- identification and quantification of system goals
- creation of alternative system *design* concepts
- performance of *design* trades
- selection and implementation of the best design
- verification that the *design* is properly built and integrated, and
- assessment of how well the system meets the goals





© Laing O'Rourke 2011, all rights reserved





© Laing O'Rourke 2011, all rights reserved



# Physical-digital integration in city infrastructure



© Laing O'Rourke 2011, all rights reserved

LAING O'ROURKE

# London 2012 Olympics park

