

UK National Platform for the Built Environment Strategic Research Agenda Questionnaire – Summary Response

A full report of the responses to the Strategic Research Agenda questionnaire will be distributed to all respondents shortly. In summary, key points from the analysis include:

- The response to the questionnaire was good. These results are based on 116 responses, 81% of which represent organisations from the built environment industry or its clients, thus addressing the need for the UK Strategic Research Agenda to be industry-led.
- Of the three areas included in the questionnaire, overall the reduced resource consumption issues were rated as being of highest priority. This may be, in part, because they are more familiar, more topical and more intelligible. The five highest priority issues identified in this area are:

Resource Consumption Issues	4s&5s % age*
New efficiency and renewable energy concepts, technologies and design tools for the large scale development of affordable new buildings	67%
Develop net CO ₂ -free and energy-producing buildings	60%
New efficiency and renewable energy concepts, technologies and design tools for the retrofit of existing buildings	59%
Research towards increases in the efficient use of materials: recycling, adaptability and retrofitting	57%
Improve training, dissemination and legislation to support reduced energy consumption	54%

** issues were scored by respondents on a scale of 1 to 5. The right hand column indicates the proportion of respondents scoring a topic as a 4 or a 5, important or very important.*

- Generally, responses for both of the other areas - new client driven, knowledge based construction process and ICT and automation – imply that these are slightly lower priority in terms of strategic research. However a number of issues were identified as being of high priority.
- The five issues in the area of a new client driven, knowledge based construction process identified as highest priority are:

New Construction Process Issues	4s&5s % age*
Whole-life perspective tools for the financial analysis of cost, investment, revenue and risk management	52%
Knowledge-based construction products and processes focused on client needs, site issues, 'value' and supply chains in construction	47%
Tools and simulation techniques for analysis and capture of customer requirements: comparison and evaluation of requirements with a mutual impact	45%
Develop an architectural knowledge base built upon lifecycle stakeholder needs, production processes and good practice in development, construction and facility management, including feedback capture	42%
Methods for verification and documentation of functionality, comfort and other quality requirements from customers	41%

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- The four issues in ICT and automation identified as highest priority are:

ICT and Automation Issues	4s&5s % age*
Open the built environment industry to a wide range of potential workers with the development of new off-site manufacturing systems, automation and mechanisation	49%
Development of industry standards and effective de facto standards for data exchange, object definitions and integrated model servers	47%
Development of advanced ICT visualisation tools and integrated data models to enable 'value' assessment of the built environment	44%
ICT tools for the efficient integration of all those involved in mobile sites, incorporating health and safety knowledge throughout	41%

- A number of respondents experienced problems of language and understanding when completing the questionnaire. These arose partly from its scope and partly from wording of the questions. The scope issue is that questions vary widely in their content; some are quite specific; some cover a range of topics; others are very general; not all have the same importance. The language issue is largely the result of carrying over 'Eurospeak' from the EU SRA questionnaire.
- With hindsight, a number of the Construction process issues are rather broad. Similarly some of the ICT issues are not necessarily of direct concern to industry.
- The results from this questionnaire should be taken as indicative rather than conclusive. This is the start of a process to translate the Strategic Research Agenda into a programme of funded, industry-led research projects.
- Similar exercises are being undertaken in other EU member countries and the results of these and the UK responses will help in identifying common topics and issues across national industries.
- The next step for the National Platform in this process will be to host an industry Awayday later in 2006. The purpose of this event will be to facilitate bringing together organisations interested in participating in a programme of research projects.
- The National Platform will also engage research funders and other members of the Built Environment research community to discuss and negotiate areas of common interest.

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