

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Public Works Programme Information System

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the current state of development and implementation of the Public Works Programme Information System (PWPIS) for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau.

BACKGROUND

2. At its meeting held on 7 March 2003, the Finance Committee approved a new commitment of \$28,767,000 for the PWPIS project with a target of achieving system live run by November 2004.

3. The PWPIS is a computer system designed to provide timely data on works contracts and consultancy agreements, versatile analysis tools as well as efficient means of communication among relevant parties involved in managing and monitoring the Public Works Programme. It will replace the Public Works Management System rolled out in 1994, bringing about better processing powers and better operational efficiency.

PRESENT POSITION

4. The main implementation contract of PWPIS commenced in September 2003 and the system was officially launched on 1 December 2004, serving about 1,200 users in 14 bureaux¹ and departments. Initial feedback indicates that system performance has been satisfactory thus far.

¹ EMB, ETWB, FSTB, HAB, HWFB, ArchSD, CEDD, DSD, EPD, HAD, HyD, TD, WSD and UGC.

5. On main system features, PWPIS is user friendly and accessible by any desktop personal computers connected to the Government Intranet without any enabling hardware or software installations. It also boasts on-line help on common terminologies and functions, single-key conversion of expenditure figures between price levels, collation of project/contract data sorted by different perspectives (e.g. departments, finance heads, project categories or estimates), interface with other government computer systems for data exchange and customized personal settings. A built-in search engine is available to locate relevant information based on a broad range of criteria such as project/contract number or titles.

6. Perhaps the most important asset of PWPIS is data accountability and security. Since only the project manager or contract administrator is eligible for data entry and editing, audit trails can easily be established to screen out unauthorized input or manipulation. Furthermore, validation rules and threshold alerts will serve to reduce wrongful entry, thus improving the level of data integrity and accuracy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The total project expenditure is estimated to be around \$21 million as compared to the approved project estimate of \$28.7 million due to lower contract prices and reduced employment of external project management staff. The annual recurrent cost is estimated to be \$4.4 million as compared to the original estimate of \$5.9 million, achieved by savings derived from lower software licence fees and efforts to trim down operation and maintenance costs.