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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Pulse of the Industry

I frequently tell the story of attempting to learn to play the violin at an early age. . . the results were horrendous! Frequently my violin teacher, who could only take so much during a lesson, would take the violin out of my hands and begin playing himself . . . same violin, same piece, but very different results. Technology implementations are quite similar to playing a musical instrument. The same technologies, being applied on very similar project scopes, can produce very different results depending on the companies. This is why the daratechPLANT conference's third focus is around *best practices*.

A best practices compendium draws from virtually every phase of a facility. Some of the best practices that are most important are

Project Evaluation and Planning: For an owner, this is one of the core processes for achieving business competitiveness. The Front End Loading (FEL) process, first developed by Independent Project Analysis (<http://www.ipaglobal.com/>), is now approaching twenty-years in application. This stage gated processes are well documented and, more importantly, some of the leading owner companies in the global market have achieved significant refinements in its use. Best practices in the project planning process are key for owners in the chemicals, power, petrochemical, and pharmaceuticals industries.

Model-Centric Design Processes: As I commented in last month's piece, we have benefitted greatly from the expansion of model-centric design systems. The ability to establish both spatial and logical representations of "virtual plants" is reaching the stage of maturity. What is still growing is the best practices related to the creation and maintenance of the design models throughout the project processes. How is change control maintained? Where is the design-basis source? How are field changes reflected? These best practices, and a number of others, represent the essence of success vs. sub-optimal performance on project applications. (Same systems, same project types . . . very different results)

August 2008 Newsletter

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that Autodesk and Bentley are ready to work together to allow interoperability. Read all about it - <http://dcnonl.com/article/id29251>

HIGHLIGHTS

Early Registration opens August 15th

The daratechPLANT Advisory Board had their second meeting on July 23rd. At this meeting they were able to narrow down the areas we will address at the daratechPLANT conference. Keep checking for updates to the program on the web in the months to come.

The Board is excited about what is being offered and look forward to seeing you at daratechPLANT 2009. Early Registration starts August 15th look for your best conference rate online at www.daratechPLANT.com

Project Information Turnover: No process may have benefitted more from modern tools than the delivery of information from design to operations. Historically, this activity could take as much as a year, and be highly ineffective. Best practices have transformed this to a natural migration from one plant phase to another. This is an area where best practices can have a dramatic impact on cost, schedule, AND quality.

Global Collaboration: The need to bring together personnel for mega-projects, frequently located across the world, is quite possibly the most challenging set of business processes we have undertaken as an industry. Companies, doing it properly, are achieving a competitive advantage, literally transforming business processes that have been in place for decades, if not centuries. For those not willing to change, the costs and challenges are, at times, insurmountable. Best practices in this area represent truly billions of dollars in cost and quality advantages.

So learning from others is as critical as identifying the newest technologies. If you've ever played a musical instrument, you know what I'm talking about.

Joseph Morray, Jr.

Chairman 2009 daratechPLANT Advisory Board
(President, Trinity Technologies Corp.)

WHAT'S NEWS

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ABOUT DARATECH

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