

East Thames Group:

Paving the way to project success for a £75 million housing development



Deliverables at-a-glance

- » All parties have instant access to the most up-to-date versions of plans
- » Reduced risk of errors due to a consistent approach to document handling, management and validation
- » Cost savings from 15% reduction in build time, elimination of paper, postal and courier costs

Challenge: Building the right foundations to support project efficiency and collaboration

East Thames is the largest housing association in east London. Together with developers Bellway Homes, the Group created 500 new homes as part of a mixed-use sustainable development, including a community hub providing services such as healthcare, employment and training to citizens living nearby.

Working to ambitious timescales and several construction phases, the £75 million Harford Street development was one of the largest community developments in the UK, requiring collaboration from multiple parties based in different locations.

In order to ensure streamlined processes at every stage and drive the project forwards, East Thames required a sophisticated solution that would facilitate timely communication, as well as access to a central hub to ensure everyone worked from the most up-to-date plans.

Solution: Supporting timely communications across multiple locations

East Thames implemented an intuitive document management solution from Opidis (formerly McLaren Software), to support the safe storage, review and retrieval of all project documentation from one central repository.

The web-based system provides multiple people stakeholders with secure, immediate access to project collateral – irrespective of location. This is essential given the Harford Street development involved an estimated 15 companies and up to 40 users accessing information across the project's lifecycle.



“Using the solution early on in the bid management planning phase means that information is readily available in one place and the opportunity for delays and errors is greatly reduced.”

Steve Tarry
Development Director East
Thames Group

As the solution allows information to be stored in one place, errors are typically reduced through better visibility of information, and potential issues can be identified much earlier – before they impact on time or costs. With the ability to streamline communications, project leaders can also coordinate queries and responses more efficiently, boosting collaboration at every stage.

Outcomes: Reducing build time and saving money

By rolling out the document management solution while the project was still in its infancy, East Thames was able to engage cross-project teams successfully, and sustain momentum through swift, accurate communications.

A simple folder structure was created, allowing users to upload, search and revise key documents and drawings, with the added reassurance that all parties have instant access to the most up-to-date versions of plans. This helped East Thames to reduce error risk and introduced a consistent approach to document handling, management and validation.

Compared to earlier projects, the introduction of the software is thought to have reduced build time by 15%, as well as driving additional cost savings by eliminating paper, postal and courier costs.

Steve Tarry, Development Director at East Thames said: “Using the solution early on in the bid management planning phase means that information is readily available in one place and the opportunity for delays and errors is greatly reduced.”

For more information about Opidis projects in the construction industry, visit: www.opidis.com

Opidis (formerly McLaren Software) is a leading supplier of collaborative document management solutions to Owner Operators and EPCs, globally. Focused on maintaining complex engineering assets and large capital projects, Opidis solutions provide a single source of truth for all engineering content including P&IDs, drawings, vendor documents, safety manuals, as well as mobile and commissioning solutions – throughout the asset lifecycle.