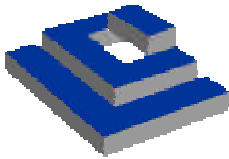




**International Group of Lean
Construction
11th Annual Conference
July 22-24, 2003
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia,
USA**



Lean Construction Institute
Building knowledge in design and construction

For Immediate Release:

CONFERENCE EXPLORES NEW APPROACHES FOR IMPROVED PROJECT DELIVERY

Project managers in the design and construction industries can discover how other firms in the US and abroad have improved overall project performance by implementing lean construction practices during the 5th Annual Lean Construction Congress on July 21, 2003, on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Lean Construction Institute (LCI), a non-profit research institute, will host a day of presentations by lean practitioners in construction, followed by the 11th Annual Meeting of the International Group of Lean Construction (IGLC) Conference, on July 22-24, 2003, also held on the Virginia Tech campus.

These two conferences bring together professionals in the design and construction industry currently using lean construction techniques or learning about them, and academics on the leading edge of this new approach to managing the project delivery process.

The LCI Congress will feature presentations by US and international design and construction firms, such as Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann, the Boldt Company, and MT Højgaard, describing their efforts and success stories in applying lean construction in practice. The Danish Construction Trade Union will describe their experience with lean on site, and suppliers to the construction industry will detail how lean has improved their performance. New this year will be panel discussions about specific aspects of lean construction. One panel will involve representatives from LCI-member companies and another will feature international leaders in lean construction from Australia, Brazil, and Chile.

LCI Executive Director Gregory Howell believes that participants will gain increased value from the new format. “The presentation and panel format will give us more time to explore the issues, benefits and challenges associated with various aspects of lean project delivery. I expect an exciting exchange of ideas and experience.”

In response to the widening use of lean practices, the LCI Congress is expanding its focus from previous years. “We have made a real effort this year to go beyond the contractor and construction perspective,” said Glenn Ballard, LCI Research Director. “The presenters and panel members for this year’s congress include designers, suppliers, managers of major projects and union representatives. By bringing them all together at one time, we can better understand the benefits of lean research in project settings.”

Individuals interested in registering for either the LCI Congress or the IGLC Congress can visit the Calendar page at www.leanconstruction.org. Prof. Julio Martinez at Virginia Tech can answer specific questions about the IGLC meeting (e-mail: julio@vt.edu). Greg Howell (e-mail: ghowell@leanconstruction.org) can answer questions about the LCI Congress.

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Supplemental Information:

Lean construction and lean theory are terms used to describe a growing approach in project delivery. Based on innovations made in the manufacturing world, lean construction changes the way work is done throughout the life of a project. By applying lean practices, a project will be completed with increased value for the project owner with reduced waste of time and resources. Practitioners of lean construction techniques have reported reduced schedule delays, reduced budget overruns, improved safety records, and increased owner satisfaction with the final project delivery.

Lean Construction Institute was founded in 1997. Its purpose is to perform research that will improve how capital facilities are managed throughout design, engineering and construction. More information about LCI can be found at www.leanconstruction.org.

The IGLC meeting is an annual event attracting lean practitioners and academics from around the world. The meeting last year in Gramado, Brazil, drew approximately a hundred participants from 15 countries. The IGLC conference has a number of themes related to lean construction, including implementation and IT support, project management theory, reducing lead time of engineered-to-order products, risk management, safety, and supply chain management.

Recent IGLC meetings have been held in Brazil, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, and are hosted by a sponsoring university. Historic Blacksburg, site of this year’s congress, is nestled in the legendary Blue Ridge Mountains, in the southwestern part of the state of Virginia. Virginia Tech is the largest university in the commonwealth of

Virginia. Its 25,000+ students pursue degrees in 60 bachelor's and 110 master's and doctoral programs. Virginia Tech is one of the nation's leaders in developing and using new instructional technologies. The Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech is consistently ranked in the top 15 by US News and World Report, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

For more information, contact:

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