

Bentley ramps up software in design and construction



Bentley has delivered a number of new and enhanced software tools focused on design and construction workflows.

OpenRoads ConceptStation is a new conceptual modelling application designed to help highway engineers quickly create iterative conceptual road and bridge models. The software can use contextual information obtained through point clouds, reality meshes, GIS, and other sources. Models can then be brought forward in their entirety for detailed design work into OpenRoads Designer.

One source of contextual information for OpenRoads ConceptStation could be from Bentley's enhanced reality modelling applications ContextCapture and

ContextCapture Center. At Christopher Burke Engineering, for example, the software is being used to process hundreds of images taken by drone or hand-held digital camera into a 3D reality mesh for civil engineering design work inside Bentley OpenRoads products.

OpenRoads Navigator CONNECT Edition is another new civil focused application designed to provide access to up to date information on site to help resolve issues during design, construction and operations.

Finally, the new CONNECT Edition of ConstructSim is pitched as an advanced work packaging solution to help enable safer, more predictable construction projects.

■ bentley.com

BIM tools to get direct access to Revit data

Open Design Alliance (ODA) has announced Teigha BIM Kernel for CAD software developers to read and write data in the Autodesk Revit 3D format. ODA is best known for Teigha Kernel, software used by more than 1,300 software vendors to create, translate, edit and publish AutoCAD .DWG files.

"There is nothing else for Revit, not even from Autodesk," said ODA President Neil Peterson, who sees three strategic

reasons why software developers and users need a Revit translator.

First, he says, Revit is "a mature technology and a clear market leader", yet there is no independent access to data created in the product.

Second, many users of Revit – either directly or because of collaborative projects – consider it "strategically important" to have more than one way to read and write their important data.

Third, there is "strong demand" for new products

that work with Revit data, but none of the standard software assets are available to developers, not even from Autodesk.

The initial release of Teigha BIM Kernel is now available to ODA members, who will be able to build rudimentary read/write features from it.

Features include support for Revit .RFA and .RTA formats from Revit 2011 onwards and direct read/write of Revit data without need for an intermediary standard like IFC.

■ Full story: tinyurl.com/RV-ODA

Full BIM data access for BIMx

Graphisoft has updated its BIM presentation and communication app, BIMx.

BIMx (free version) now provides free access to the full set of project information including 2D documents, 3D models and non-geometric data.

BIMx PRO (paid version) now provides an on-demand measurement feature on iOS for both 2D documentation layouts and for 3D hyper-models.

■ bimx.archicad.com

New BIM tools from Datacomp

BIMestiMate is a new tool from Datacomp, for preparing measurements, cost estimating and scheduling.

The Polish software developer has also released BIM Vision, a freeware IFC 2x3 model viewer, which allows users to display several models at the same time, perform take-off and view cross sections.

■ bimestimate.eu/en ■ bimvision.eu

TDS launches digital venture

Design 4 Structures is a new division of TDS Midlands, set up to support design challenges from the digital engineering world.

A partnership with digital engineering and BIM specialist Jonathan Lock (formerly of Arup and Aecom), the new division will offer a wide range of services to architects, engineers and contractors.

"Having spent most of my career in consulting engineering practices I feel really well placed to understand the challenges and opportunities this new digital world creates," Lock said.

■ design4structures.com