

Integrated cost information systems for construction projects

Contractors generally obtain jobs through competitive bidding. Generally, the contractor who submits the lowest offer will get the contract. Thus, a contractor has a couple of tasks, to be successful in business; to arrive at a lowest bid and to control his project cost within the estimated limit.

In order to achieve these targets, contractors need accurate, reliable and timely information regarding all the cost related activities within a site such as resource management, progress management, billing process and so on.

There are many computer software and management Information Systems, to help many processes for contractors such as 'MS Project' for planning and 'Billest' for estimating. However, a system which integrates the site cost-related activities and project progress is yet to be developed. On the other hand, the available systems of other contractors do not satisfy the requirement of Sri Lankan construction industry. And also, they are too expensive for local contractors. These issues demand the development of an integrated Information System for the construction management process of projects.

This research aims at providing a Management Information System for integration of cost of site activities and progress on sites. The function of this system is to capture site information for routine cost-related activities within site progress related activities. To achieve this objective, a thorough survey is conducted to identify the types of

information and their flow within the organization. Then an analysis could be done to configure the system needs, information model and out put.