

TEKLA model competition

Tekla recently held their annual model competition attracting entries of all size and shapes and utilising many different construction materials. Once again the entries showcased the skills of our customers in terms of their use of the Tekla software but also highlighted their skills as companies involved in the construction process. The competition is open to all our customers and we had entries from “one man bands” up to the largest multi-national companies employing thousands. The entries can be seen at www.tekla.com/uk/Documents/model-comp-2011/entries.html

The main criteria this year was not only the complexity of the 3D model but also the collaborative workflows employed and use of BIM processes. A panel of industry experts including buildoffsite’s own Richard Ogden chose 5 winners, all very different and very unique entries. The chosen winners can be viewed at www.tekla.com/uk/Documents/model-comp-2011/winners.html

As mentioned the main criteria was not only about showing an impressive building and model, the judges were looking to have explained to them the BIM processes involved, both internally within an organisation but also to the benefit of the rest of the project team. What else was the model used for ? How was the information in the model leveraged to improve the whole process and minimise duplicate work ? Was the project executed in a collaborative workflow ?

Comments were as follows:

Leadenhall – The judges felt that this could be an exemplar project for the future, already at the tender stage demonstrating both process improvement through sharing of the model information between different software’s as well as between project members with different needs and responsibilities delivering almost seamless use of the model geometry for analysis and design of the structure as well as the individual complex nodes. The design team also sought expertise from the supply chain to build the nodes in a way that would enable simpler fabrication processes as the project develops.

The Peace Bridge – Altogether an impressive project with complex geometry and effective use of the model for defining temporary works, centre of gravity, lifting and transportation requirements. The model geometry was also used by the survey team to check and record relevant control points along the structure.

Exeter University – A challenging multi-material project with no room for error and the issues facing the project team meeting fabrication tolerances and erection methods must have been immense. Geometry information shared with the glazing contractors must have been invaluable.

BAE Systems – A great example of a collaborative project sharing information with different disciplines to ensure delivery of this signature building. Tight coordination with the design consultant as well as the cladding and glazing contractors ensured a pain free construction process on the construction site

There was also an opportunity for the public to vote for their favourite, this was won by Watson Steel Structures entry, **The Orbit**. All winners go forward to Tekla’s Global BIM Awards where they will be up against tough competition from all around the world.