



Steel Detailers Forum
Held at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 13 September 2011
at the Australian Steel Convention, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra.

PRESENT:	Clayton Roxborough	- Steelcad
	John Leworthy	- Steelcode Detailing
	Gareth Lancaster	- Fabcad
	Peter Polson	- Fabcad
	Chris Velovski	- EDC Consultants
	Shawn Weir	- PDC
	Todd Dunlop	- DCA/Pacific Computing
	Vinod Muthanna	- BDS/Pacific Computing
	John Papazis	- Australian Steel Detailers
	Greg Hammer	- Australian Steel Detailers
	Tim Gordon	- Steel Pencil
	Reegan Lawton	- Steel Pencil
	Peter Cocciardi	- Cocciardi Pty Ltd
	Russell Neal	- Sedgman
	Ian Cairns	- ASI
	Peter Key	- ASI
	John Gardner	- ASI (Minutes Secretary)

Introduction by Clayton Roxborough, AISD Chairman

- Clayton Roxborough welcomed all attendees to the Forum and each person advised who they were and the company they represented.

Discussion Topics

Poor Quality Design Documentation, its impact on steel detailing and possible solutions

- It was discussed that Detailers should be asking for less documentation from designers by working closely with them. One suggestion is that designers put loads on the drawings and the Detailers “design” the connections using ASI Design Capacity Tables for Connections.
- It was considered unlawful for Detailers to carry out design in Victoria and it was discussed that Detailers should not be competing with Engineers. Detailers could suggest the most effective connections to use, but Engineers need to provide final certification.
- Detailers could also assist Engineers by producing 3D models of projects from Engineers design sketches.
- Another alternative is for Detailers to work directly for Builders and control all following design professionals and tradespeople using a 3D model of the project. Workshop drawings could be produced if required. This alternative can prove difficult for Fabricators as Builders can reduce Fabricators’ margins by having them quote from workshop drawings. Many Fabricators feel they are losing control of the process if detailing is completed early in the project.
- More Detailers are finding that Engineers want to work with them to streamline the design/build process.
- It was agreed that Detailers would investigate at each state level whether they can design connections in conjunction with having Engineers provide final approval/certification of the design.

Off-shore detailing and its effect on the Australian Market

- It was considered that the trend towards offshore detailing will continue and the local steel detailing industry must adapt to the competitive environment.
- Clients are using pricing from offshore Detailers to put downward pressure on local pricing.
- Tekla is taking action on the use of pirated software by carrying out raids on offshore Detailers. It is a major problem as some Chinese Government Agencies are reported to be using pirated Tekla software.
- Investigations are underway to develop ways to block the production of CNC data from pirated software.
- There is a risk of offshore detailing being inaccurate which can be very costly for local projects.
- Some offshore Detailers have a “shop front” in Australia manned with only sales staff who send all of the steel detailing work to their offshore office to complete.
- Several suggestions to tackle the problem include; registration of Detailers similar to Builders registration, advising of projects that went over budget and/or were delayed due to offshore detailing, providing a name & shame list of Detailers that are using pirated software.
- It was suggested that Tekla should release details of the number of software licenses held by companies to enable an evaluation of whether companies were using pirated software. Some local companies may also be using pirated software.
- It was agreed that the AISD membership application forms should be amended to include a requirement that applicants must be using licensed software.
- It was agreed that an awareness campaign should be produced by the AISD to advise of the risks of offshore detailing and the benefits of using local Detailers.
- The UK based Federation against Software Theft (FAST) is a group that is active in fighting software piracy.

Local Content Campaigns in Qld and WA

- Ian Cairns, ASI National Manager, Industry Development reported on the campaigns to lobby the federal government, as well as the Queensland and Western Australian governments to support increased local content in major projects. Currently, Australian fabricators are only securing 10% of the work in new major projects.
- The campaigns consist of a planned process involving industry reports, engagement with politicians and their advisors and a public awareness campaign. The process is being managed by public relations/lobby group, CPR Communications. The aim of the campaigns is to bring about a structural change in how local industry is supported with a focus on early engagement and transparency in reporting.
- The federal government has offered financial assistance for local companies to become more efficient. It was thought that the AISD should submit a proposal for a subsidy for local Detailers to purchase 3D modelling software. It was agreed that the ASI would assist with this submission.
- It was discussed that even though local Fabricators may win more work from the campaigns, there was no guarantee that the steel detailing would be completed in Australia. There is a similar issue for steel supply, where overseas steel sections may be used by local fabricators in lieu of Australian produced steel.
- The AISD (Qld) is involved in the Qld campaign. It was agreed that the Qld Campaign brochure would be placed on the AISD website.
- The federal government has engaged a number of people to assist the steel industry. These are; Peter Beattie – Resources Sector Supplier Envoy, Dennis O’Neill – Steel Supplier Advocate and Andrew Kiloni - ICN National Steel Manager. It was important that the local industry engages with these representatives.

- Federal Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr also has a representative in his department who can take complaints/comments from industry on practices that are disadvantaging local suppliers.

Steel Detailers Handbook Review

- There has been no progress on the updating of the Australian Steel Detailers' Handbook since the last forum. Peter Key and Peter Cocciardi agreed to assist with the update. There may be government funding available to update the handbook. The updated handbook will be available in both hard copy and electronic forms.
- The drawings in the back of the handbook would also be updated to include running dimensions.
- If required, sponsors could be sought to fund the revision of the handbook.
- There has been a request from universities for 3D models of projects. Peter Key will email the request for information to AISD steering committee members. Todd Dunlop advised he could provide 3D models. Vinod Muthanna advised that Tekla can provide free student licenses of 3D modelling software to universities.

Tertiary qualifications for the Detailing Industry

- The Certificate III in Manufacturing Technology (Structural Steel Detailing) is being offered online by the Digital Construction Academy (DCA). The course is at level 3 of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), and the qualification code is MSA30208. The MSA30208 qualification is derived from the larger MSA07 Manufacturing Training Package from Manufacturing Skills Australia. Students get free access to software from DCA.
- Some parts of the course are out of date, but it is still considered useful. The qualification is due for review during 2013 to 2014.

Open Forum

- It was suggested that the name of the Australian Institute of Steel Detailers (AISD) be changed to the Australian Institute of Construction Modellers (AICM). The name change could reflect the wider range of services offered by Detailers through the use of 3D modelling software. It was agreed to discuss the name change at the state meetings of the ASID and provide a recommendation to be agreed nationally.

Meeting closed at 3.55 pm