

DESIGNA @ Dublin Airport

By Tony Whelan

DESIGNA's involvement with DAA for the delivery of a Car Park Management Solution (CPMS) for Dublin Airport began with their response to the Request for Information (RFI) back in the autumn of 2005. Having been preselected to submit a proposal as part of the subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) stage, a very strenuous few months lay ahead for the DESIGNA proposal team members as they worked their way through the rigorous selection process. The RFP itself required many thousands of questions to be answered relating to the proposed CPMS.

Subsequent stages involved the completion of a fully blown demonstration of the CPMS in a hotel function room and at the preferred vendor stage a proof of concept trial was necessary. All in all, a very challenging process helped by the fact that the RFP documentation was extremely detailed and the whole process was run very professionally by the DAA team under the leadership of John Brennan and their parking consultant Liam Keilthy.

DESIGNA with its 56 year history, extensive experience in delivering complex turnkey solutions, over 5,000 installed systems worldwide (including over 50 airport references), recent launch of its state-of-the-art PM ABACUS parking system, a competent Irish partner in Blue Wall Technologies Ltd., providing value for money, secured the project as a single source supplier and began delivery of the CPMS began late 2006.

The CPMS consisted of the following integrated subsystems: POF, Taxi Management, CCTV, digital intercom, ANPR, pre-book, credit card clearing, VMS, interface to the DAA data warehouse and control room equipment.

DESIGNA knew that that success in such a complex project relied on a professional project management. The resulting project management team consisted of an overall Project Manager (Stefan Lamp) interfacing with the DAA project team and supported by a Project Engineer (Juergen Killmer) and on-site Project Supervisor (Derek Tebay). A Supervisory Group was installed to insure that things ran as planned.

DESIGNA now has a prestigious international reference at Dublin Airport. The input provided by DAA and their parking customers has resulted in a better PM ABACUS product and the features developed for DAA are now of benefit to other DESIGNA customers. The lessons learnt from a project management point of view and by virtue of the open communication with the DAA project team has increased the level of professionalism at DESIGNA in running such projects.

More information about DESIGNA is available from www.DESIGNA.com and about Blue Wall Technologies Ltd from www.bluewall.ie

About the author: Tony Whelan is a business development and product management advisor at DESIGNA and was responsible for managing the proposal process for the Dublin Airport project. He was subsequently a member of the project Supervisory Group.