

Announcement: Award-winning paper in 2009

Papers published in *Management, Procurement and Law* are eligible for awards from the Institution of Civil Engineers. Papers from any of the ICE journals can be nominated for several awards. In addition, each journal has awards dedicated to their specific subject area.

On Friday 8 October 2010, ICE president Paul Jowitt presented an award to the following paper published in *Management, Procurement and Law* in 2009. The editorial panel nominated their best papers and an awards committee chaired by Barry Clarke allocated the awards.

The Parkman Medal, presented for the best paper on the practical aspects of the control or management, including project management, of the design and/or construction of a specific scheme, was awarded to: Chapman PHJ (2009) Dispute boards on major infrastructure projects. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Management, Procurement and Law* **162**(1): 7–16.

Abstract

Prevention is better than cure. Using dispute boards on major infrastructure projects has been shown to reduce significantly the number of issues that become full-blown disputes and thereby involve the parties in time-consuming and costly arbitration and/or litigation. In this paper the author, a past-president of the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation and a leading exponent of dispute boards, reviews the history, purpose and proven benefits of dispute boards in the avoidance and early evaluation (adjudication) of disputes within the construction industry. The paper emphasises the importance of good job-site communication and how a proactive dispute board, particularly on international contracts, can positively influence on-site relationships and bring major project management benefits to the construction process. The appointment of dispute boards, the terms of engagement and best-practice procedures are discussed. The article reveals the remarkably successful dispute



ICE President Paul Jowitt presents the Parkman Medal to Peter Chapman

resolution figures of 98% when dispute boards are used in addition to the hidden benefits of dispute avoidance.