

Book review

BSRIA BG 11/2010 Commissioning Job Book

Glenn Hawkins. BSRIA, Bracknell, UK, 2010, ISBN 978-0-86022-697-0, £50.00, 95 pp.

This book is described as being a framework for managing the commissioning process. It provides a stage-by-stage set of processes to help project teams deliver better performance outcomes in buildings. The author comments that clients sometimes accept buildings at handover whose systems work as per the specifications, but do not work optimally or as expected. He goes on to comment that some system deficiencies are never even noticed in the lead up to project handover due to other matters taking priority and also that initial underperformance can easily remain undetected, leading to long-term chronic problems that never get fixed.

The parts of the book first deal with helpful guidance about the book itself and how best to use it. A description is given of the eight stages of a suggested commissioning process itself, which is the main thrust of the book. This comes with a useful colour-coded referencing system. The stages cover preparation, design, pre-construction, construction, commissioning of engineering services, pre-handover, initial occupation and finally, post-occupancy aftercare. The book ends with a series of appendices and references.

The eight stages are all integrated and the key principles of this include matters such as a whole project view, a sustainable conscience, a

consistent process and integrated working practices. In a plan of the stages, there is a useful diagram illustrating how this dovetails with the Association for Consultancy and Engineering work stages, the Royal Institute of British Architects Plan of Work stages and the Office for Government Commerce Gateways. There are helpful references to other appropriate guides and pertinent information throughout this book.

Of course the commissioning process is something to begin preparing for at the earliest work stages and gateways. The author rightly points out the need to produce contracts which support the commissioning process along with the production of detailed commissioning programmes.

This publication is very well written, easy to read and follow and provides invaluable advice to those looking to competently prepare, plan and execute the commissioning stages of buildings. If there is a slight drawback of this book it is that the focus is only on UK buildings. Other sectors of course have to go through similar processes for their assets being constructed or maintained. If it were possible to make the framework generic for use in a number of sectors, that would be a really helpful outcome. That said, this is a quite excellent publication and is a must-have for construction professionals involved in the commissioning process.

Robert Gerrard