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## Supply chain digital twin concept wins Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund backing

A joint proposal from PCSG, the Construction Products Association (CPA) and MK9 Development to create a digitally connected supply chain model for the construction industry has secured backing from the Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

The project, worth £475,000, will test the hypothesis that through the model developed, clients and supply chains get better outcomes by:

- Defining objective, testable outcome-based requirements at each transaction point
- Clarifying information requirements and linking delivery to procurement
- Procuring products and services along the supply chain from reliable BIM data
- Linking requirements to ensure the value of offers being procured are clearly identified
- Updating the model at every transaction point to provide live updates on progress

The improved results generated by an outcomes-based digital approach to the supply chain have already been seen in other sectors; MK9 Development have delivered platforms across several industries including healthcare and transport, which have typically delivered:

- A 25 per cent quicker procurement process
- Typical savings of 8 per cent on everything procured through the platforms
- An over 95 per cent success rate in delivering products and services at the right cost, to the right quality and on time.

Steve Thompson, PCSG's Digital Manufacturing Lead, said: "We need to build safer, better performing assets more quickly, more efficiently and with less resource. With the proposed model, we believe we can also identify the right mix of products, skills and tools and information to deliver better outcomes through the lifecycle of an asset."

Peter Caplehorn, Deputy Chief Executive and Policy Director of the CPA, said: "Digitalisation of the whole industry and more importantly the supply chain is critical to its future success. CPA are delighted to be involved and we are sure this will bring real benefits to our members. This project supports and compliments our other digital programmes."

Kieron Basquille, Managing Director of MK9 Development, said: "We're really excited to be able to take our expertise into another new sector, where we know that any improvement in efficiency and data quality will have a really positive effect."

The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund is a part of the government's commitment to increase funding in research and development by £4.7 billion over four years.

The project outputs will include:

- A published methodology to measure the benefits of supply chain integration
- Data requirements for supply chain digital twins and procurement

- Impact analysis of supply chain digital twins and integrated supply chains for construction
- A minimum viable product (MVP) of an outcomes-based procurement platform for construction
- Case studies of the application of these models to real projects

For further information, please contact [steve.thompson@pcsg.co.uk](mailto:steve.thompson@pcsg.co.uk), or follow [@supplydigitwin](https://twitter.com/supplydigitwin) on twitter

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#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

**PCSG:** is an international built-environment consultancy. Chaired by Mark Bew MBE, it is at the forefront of work to apply digital processes and techniques to the design, build, operation and maintenance of our built assets, unlocking efficiencies and creating environments which are attuned to the needs of their users. [www.pcsq.co.uk](http://www.pcsq.co.uk)

**Construction Products Association:** The CPA represents the UK's manufacturers and distributors of constructions products and materials. Nearly 80% of all the products used in the UK are made in the UK. The sector directly provides jobs for 337,000 people across 24,000 companies and has an annual turnover of more than £60 billion. The CPA is the leading voice to promote and campaign for this vital UK industry. [www.constructionproducts.org.uk](http://www.constructionproducts.org.uk)

**MK9 Development:** MK9 Development is a software development business with a track record of building transactional web applications mainly for use by the UK public sector that are secure, scaleable and user friendly. [www.mk9-development.com](http://www.mk9-development.com)

**Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund:** The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund aims to bring together the UK's world-leading research with business to meet the major industrial and societal challenges of our time. It is run by Innovate UK and the Research Councils on behalf of UK Research and Innovation. <https://www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/>