Two bridges, one brand

It is BAM doing the talking with the two new railway bridges over the Albert Canal on the northern edge of Antwerp in Belgium. Along the bank, CEI-De Meyer and Betonac are building new quaysides for the widening of the waterway. About ten metres above them, BAM Track and BAM Rail are working on the tracks and the overhead power lines. The new bridges are needed to allow the Albert Canal to be widened to 63 metres and to give access to four-layer container vessels, for which a vertical clearance of more than nine metres is required. BAM Track and BAM Rail have been tasked with all railway-related work. The former is responsible for the track, and the latter for the overhead power lines. The idea is that BAM Track will also master this specialism in the future, which is why the BAM Rail project team has been strengthened by BAM Track site agent Jonathan Minten.

Monitoring progress on BAM International’s Dubai projects is now a breeze: drones are flying over the works weekly to take bird’s eye view pictures. ‘The perfect solution to a client’s requirement and the way forward for the construction industry’, says project engineer Nick Geurts. ‘Using small, lightweight drones is the innovative answer to a client’s requirement of taking monthly aerial pictures of the progression of the works. Our drone with a digital camera attached to it is much, much cheaper than aerial photography. Their typical operational height is eight hundred metres, with a range of 1.5 kilometres. We use our drone to monitor progress, methods and for complete aerial inspections. It’s nice to see our progress in high-quality pictures – and very recent ones! It just makes our progress meetings and day-to-day discussions more efficient. It’s even possible to livestream the footage we take to anywhere in the world! This has been money well spent.’

‘Drones, the perfect progress monitors’

Under the eye of the Duke of Wellington, BAM Construction is making good progress with the construction of CONNECT110NS. This prestigious office – 13,285 m² of floor space and 2,043 m² of retail space – in the business centre of Glasgow has been developed by BAM Properties and was sold for £70 million to Deutsche AWM. Several occupiers, including Deloitte, Grant Thornton and law firm Brodies, have signed for office space. BAM will complete the project in summer 2015. The project is an exemplar BAM multidisciplinary project as BAM’s design, service engineering and FM teams are also involved.

www.110queenstreet.com

Plenty of glass in Glasgow

BAM Bouw en Techniek has handed over the new WaterCampus building in Leeuwarden (northern Netherlands). The knowledge centre for water technology – with offices, laboratories and meeting rooms – has concrete core activation and wooden slats have been fitted to the outer wall as part of the climate system. The PV panels on the roof, the waterless urinals and the water-saving taps contribute to the sustainable character of the building.
No electricity bill!

In just six weeks, BAM Wimbehnova has made 49 housing corporation homes energy-neutral. The ‘The Strommerkendeling’ project is an initiative of four major construction companies, including BAM, and it was housing corporations and the city of Enschede are involved in renovating homes without this leading to rent increases. The renovations are being funded from the energy costs that are saved directly to the corporation. It means that the lifetime of these older homes can be extended by at least forty years.

Ireland

Four new schools by BAM

Building has commenced on four new post-primary schools under School Bundle 4 of the Government’s Public Private Partnership (PPP) Programme. The schools and sports pitches will be fully designed by BAM on greenfield sites. The total investment will be in excess of €150 million. The new school buildings will have an overall pupil capacity of around 3,000 and will:

• St Mary’s College Dundalk, Co. Louth.
• St Joseph’s Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare.
• St Debrún Senior School, Co. Cork.

After completion in May 2016, BAM will be delivering both hard and soft facilities management services for 25 years.

BAM Contractor’s managing director Theo Callaghan: ‘BAM has already successfully delivered and eight schools under Schools Bundle 3 and are looking forward to providing four new state-of-the-art energy efficient schools under this project.’

Denmark

BAM successful in Denmark

The Technical University of Denmark (DTU) has commissioned BAM to construct a new biotechnology research centre housing 654 researchers. The Nordisk Fondation Centre for Biosustainability. The research centre will cover 12,000 m² of space and will be the tallest building on the campus of DTU in Kongens Lyngby. Fifteen kilometres north of Copenhagen. The centre will have access to advanced laboratories for better research, as well as meeting and office facilities and common areas.

Bo Svenningsen, managing director of BAM Denmark: ‘In August 2014 we won the first contract for the new office building in Måg for researchers from DTU Nanotech at the Faculty of Micro and Nanotechnology. We are very pleased with this second job. It perfectly fits into our business plan, and this project will therefore contribute to developing our business in Denmark.’ BAM expects to complete the €27 million project in July 2016.

Working more safely with i-BAM

BAM International has made further improvements to its Health and Safety Environment (HSE) performance in the Gulf region thanks to the introduction of the biometric card system i-BAM (instant biometric android monitoring). This makes it possible to check whether a construction site employee has completed the required training and if certifications have been issued. Safety manager Fergal Kelly: ‘In Dubai, Jordan and Abu Dhabi all HSE advisors are issued with the android device.

The only thing that is required is the employee’s fingerprint or biometric card, which is issued at induction stage. With i-BAM we can immediately check whether someone is performing tasks for which they have actually received training. There is also no more hassle with stickers that have to be stuck onto helmets and this is updated on a daily basis.’

BAM International managing director Martin Billaney: ‘Back in shape requires all operating companies to reduce costs and improve liquidity. Although BAM International has not been a major focus area we have had Company Task Forces (CTFs) under consideration. Fortunately we already started working on improving efficiency in 2014 as part of our Operational Plan (OP) and have already achieved significant CTC reductions for 2015. We look positively on the structural changes that are now taking place and are confident that there will be a sound foundation for a healthier BAM. Operating companies will be even better able to share knowledge, experience and resources.’

BAM Nuttall

‘During 2014 we enjoyed a very successful year securing six major project awards, delivering on our profitability targets and most importantly the Group. Control of indirect CTC costs is essential to our business and we were able to reduce our overhead costs during the year through the implementation of best practice techniques, particularly in our bidding operations. We will continue to work on this as we move forward, and have recently reduced our standard overhead (i.e. non project related CTC) to get the back in shape targets for our business.’

Last year BAM PPP secured ten projects with a total capital value of approximately £1 billion, which will provide an operations and maintenance, and lifecycle turnover over the next thirty years of approximately £1.1 billion.

The most recent wins include:

• N25 New Ross Bypass, Ireland: a thirteen kilometres road and a one kilometre statutes bridge over the River Barrow, the longest of its type to be constructed in the world.
• Brighouse, Yorkshire: the Framed consortium will deliver an infrastructure project consisting of ten kilometres of new tramlines, public squares, underground parking garage, tunnels and bridges.
• tram Line, Belgium: our mobile consortium will deliver a public transportation system for the city which includes twelve kilometres of rail, twenty tram stops and supporting infrastructure.

The first half of 2015 will see these projects reach financial close and the announcement of BAM PPP preferred bidder on a further five projects.

Good progress is being made to get BAM back in shape in 2015 with better project control, lowering our cost base, improving our working capital and simplifying our organisational structure. All the boards of BAM’s operating companies are fully supporting the programme. A view on the achievements of your operating company.

BAM Contractors

Managing director Theo Callaghan: ‘Having managed our way through the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the long duration projects, where national construction volume fell from £27 billion to under £17 billion, BAM Contractors is well positioned to take advantage of the long-term market trends and increased order book, increased market share, and are the leader in PPP projects and at the forefront of BAM technology. Our turnover and order book continues to increase while our overhead remains one of the lowest in the Group.’

BAM Construct UK

‘Due in 2014, we improved our cash management. We are investing promptly and have reduced the amount of overdue debt,’ says finance director, Neil McGraer. ‘We have not significantly changed our operational structure but have reduced overhead costs through implementing efficiencies and lean management. We have a very healthy order book for 2015, and these measures, coupled with a larger turnover, meant that we aim to maintain one of the lowest overheads in the Group in 2015.’

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This year will see BAM Nuttall celebrating its 150th anniversary; as part of these celebrations BAM Nuttall will be supporting two charities, Help for Heroes and Macmillan Cancer Care.

Some key dates in the history of the company:

• 1865: 21 year old James Nuttall sets up the business as a small contractor for road and sewer work, with an office based in Manchester.
• 1902: James Nuttall takes his two sons Edmund and James into partnership, trading under the name ‘Edmund Nuttall & Company’.
• 1908: Nuttall builds Liverpool’s three hundred feet high Royal Liver Building; the first reinforced concrete skyscraper in Britain.
• 1925: Edmund Nuttall secures contract for pilot headings of the Mersey Tunnel and eventually the greater engineering work.
• 1939-1945: The company is at the heart of the rearmament programme and defence work during World War II, including the building of Mulberry harbours.
• 1978: Company bought by Hollandsche Beton Groep (HBG).
• 1980: Edmund Nuttall builds Redheugh Bridge, the first post-tensioned concrete road bridge, over the River Tyne.
• 2002: HBG brought by Royal BAM Group.
• 2002-Present: Transformation works for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the redevelopment of King’s Cross, major tunnelling works for Crossrail and creating the Borders Railway.

Heathrow Tunnel: always on

In west London BAM Nuttall is working on a rejuvenation project at Heathrow Airport, the busiest international airport. The contract is worth £85 million and works will be carried out to refurbish two of the main access tunnels, which provide the only routes into the airport for freight and cargo wagons. Under the scheme, BAM Nuttall is working on the strip out and upgrade of the cargo tunnels under a series of night-time partial closures. These tunnels are essential to the smooth running of the airport, and hence there will be a stiff penalty for handing the tunnels back late after a night time possession. The project is set to be completed by February 2016.

Building Britain for the past 150 years

All hands to seal pup’s rescue

BAM Nuttall’s team working at St David’s lifeboat station have been getting closer to nature than they expected, when they found themselves rescuing a seal pup only hours old. The seal pup was washed up on the beach where the new boathouse and slipway for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution’s new Tamar class lifeboat is being built. Senior engineer Gary Fielding, general foreman Glen Parrott and banksman Nick Hampshire were on hand and rushed to help. Glen and Gary managed to catch the seal in a blanket and bring it to safety.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) were called and came to collect the pup, it was then taken to a seal sanctuary in Somerset where it will stay for three months before being re-released into the wild.

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Safety campaign on tour

November saw the ‘Plant Awareness Roadshows’ taking place across the country. Organised by BAM Nuttall’s plant department, the aim was to give employees an appreciation of reduced visibility when driving machinery, to find out more about the latest safety features and to help employees understand the purpose of exclusion zones. The awareness roadshows stopped off at ten locations across the UK and were attended by over four hundred people. One comment made by an employee at the River Nene scheme in Peterborough: ‘I learned a lot more about awareness than I did before, such as blind spots and safe walking areas.’

Congratulations are in order for BAM Nuttall chief executive Steve Fox who received a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours List. He received this award for service to the construction industry and in particular for the work that he has carried out on promoting the role of apprentices within the industry. Steve Fox will be presented with his award by a member of the British Royal Family. The picture shows Steve Fox opening the BAM Nuttall apprentice training centre at Stephenson College.