Using SMART Interactive Technology in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction Industries
The challenges we face

Technology has always played a key role in the AEC industry, especially in terms of product and building design and with government initiatives such as the Government Construction Strategy now in full swing, this has been a huge catalyst for the use of technology and 3D simulation software in the sector. The strategy dictates that on government procured building projects, collaborative 3D BIM must be used by 2016.

With a constant pressure to complete projects on time and on budget, regardless of size, managers in the AEC industry have to work collaboratively and build teams that perform to a high standard and work together to design and deliver anything from microprocessors to jet turbines to the iconic buildings of the future.

Often bringing teams together to one physical location can be a time consuming and expensive affair. Let’s face it, the cost of fuel and travel by road, rail and air is never going to get cheaper! Yet we all seem to need to travel more and more as part of our working lives. Indeed, finding a slot where everyone can be in the same place, could be weeks away and that will only serve to extend decision making and problem solving time.

If you do get your team in a room together then research has shown that 28% of meetings are considered a waste of time [collabor8 white paper]. If you use CAD or 3D modelling software for processes such as product design then there are some challenges that you face in the meeting room environment. You may be using paper drawings to review information and changes, which can be difficult for everyone to see and fiddly to relay information on after the meeting.

When viewing 3D models in the meeting room with the design team, perhaps with a projector or display that you already have, how can you sketch ideas, record actions and solutions to problems in a way that allows you to take information away and distribute it back to the team, with minimal fuss and minimal time?

And how can you receive creative input from team members that are not physically present at the meeting?
“But what about the collaboration technology we already use?”

Audio Conferencing
Using desk phones, mobile phones and conference phones to talk to each other.
Audio is simple, cost effective and widespread, but is the furthest away from real interaction.

Video Conferencing
HD quality video with audio allows a higher level of engagement. Seeing facial expressions and reactions is part of this.
Video, although traditionally an elitist meeting room only product, is now much more pervasive thanks to cloud based solutions, smart phones and tablets.

Screen Sharing
Desktop sharing allows for Audio, Video and Screen sharing in real time.
Engagement is higher when participants can all view a shared screen. However this is only passive engagement, as the meeting owner shares content with minimal interactivity.

If you could use a robust, proven, versatile touch technology as a collaborative tool in the workplace that will take you beyond the passive engagement of voice, video and screen sharing and into an environment where active engagement is possible - where team members can contribute in real time to the meeting interactively no matter where they are based in the world, wouldn’t that make a huge impact in your organisation?
With business solutions from SMART you can achieve so much more

SMART technology allows you to display and interact with your everyday applications on a large format interactive touch display. Stunning visuals offer every team member the richest experience possible to view, create, share and interact with digital content - all in real time.

Using natural touch gestures you can open and interact with any application, just as you would on a PC. What's more using SMART's intuitive pen and digital ink, you can write digital notes over documents and save & email everything as one handy presentation file (formats include .pdf or Powerpoint).

It's all incredibly easy to use and with SMART's natural and simple "walk up and use" design philosophy everyone can use the technology right away, which maximises your return on investment.

"The SMART Board is the best piece of technology we have ever invested in. We're leading the way in our industry with this technology. We make sure that we write it into tenders and tell prospective clients all about our SMART Board and the benefits for progress review meetings and sign-off workshops. On the University Medical Centre project in Louisiana, we use the SMART Board to work with colleagues on the other side of the Atlantic. It proves that with these tools, we can bid for, win and deliver contracts anywhere in the world."

Richard Baglow, Regional Director, Ibsecad.

Ibsecad are an international BIM consultancy who specialise in bringing design and people together. Working in a collaborative environment with all stakeholders in the design process. They create a Building Information Model that allows projects to run smoothly and cost effectively through to handover.

www.ibsecad.net
Connect team members into the meeting room instantly - wherever they are in the world - to see, hear, share and interact with content, via laptops, ipads or other smart devices.

SMART gives you the power to discuss issues and solve problems in real time with amazing clarity, as all team members are fully engaged and can understand what's going on, whether they are in the office, at a customer site, or in a hotel on another continent!

The whole process of collaboration takes place with no fuss and very low expense - and there is nothing complicated in setting this up - as Bridgit has been designed to be very easy to use – in fact your meeting is set up automatically for you, all you have to do is invite people to join by touching the screen to send an email link. Participants do not need to worry about software, as a link to the meeting is sent within the email.

Using SMART technology in the workplace, on-site and indeed anywhere you go will accelerate multidiscipline collaboration, reduce coordination review cycles and vastly improve project efficiency.

Engage people in the meeting room and around the world in Real Time

All data is securely encrypted using 256bit SSL technology. All participants can annotate directly onto the shared screen.
At TecInteractive, we only offer you technology solutions that integrate with the applications you use every day. Applications such as Autodesk Navisworks, Autodesk Revit, Tekla BIMsight, Solidworks, Adobe Illustrator and more.

This enhanced integration allows for a greater level of interactivity and the use of gestures when using these applications.

“SMART Boards have changed our meetings. We're able to get on topic, pull up a 3D model, show the problem and quickly get others on board.”

Dan Gramer, National Manager, Turner Construction.
What about the return on investment?

A recent Stanford University report looked into the return on investment for 2 types of organisation after they had invested in SMART Interactive Displays. The survey was conducted with 54 industry and academic users of SMART for design and construction coordination reviews. The costs for each included SMART Interactive Displays and software and even a full-time member of staff for training and maintenance. The return on investment was measured and was found to be just a few weeks on average!

Aside from the economic benefits, our technology also helps organisations reduce their environmental impact, as well as supporting flexible working practises – meaning a better work-life balance for all.

Clearbox is a technology-focused business deploying leading edge Project information management products from BIM based projects. BIMXtra provides a step change in the management of data and information by harnessing the flow of information in a secure access-controlled data environment that provides access to all project stakeholders in a fully integrated collaborative environment based around a single source of truth.

“TecInteractive has provided Smart board technology to Clearbox to further enhance the collaborative nature of the Clearbox products allowing us to demonstrate and use our tools with ease in the interactive manner in which they were intended”

Graeme Forbes, Managing Director

www.clearboxbim.com
Why you should choose TecInteractive

More than just technology

At TecInteractive we are passionate about helping our clients work smarter through the use of technology. We believe that a properly implemented solution means that our clients will maximise their return on investment. With our first class design, installation, training, maintenance and support services you can not only start using interactive technology but it becomes the norm in everyday life.

We have worked with some of the industry’s leading organisations who have trusted us to deliver on this promise.

“We invested in a SMART board from TecInteractive! Staff & clients are impressed. The design team utilise the board for design reviews & the value of these meetings has been enhanced by the use of the board. The support and service we receive from TecInteractive has been outstanding”.

Mick Waller, Design Manager, Brown & Holmes (Tamworth) Ltd

Our clients include:

- bam
- SKANSKA
- MPT
- LAING O’ROURKE
- KIER
- SIEMENS
- Crossrail
- Mott MacDonald
What are the next steps?

There are several ways in which we can demonstrate SMART Interactive technology for business. By visiting one of our demo experience centres, you can see (and more importantly touch) a range of Interactive Whiteboards and Interactive Display products in action.

We also help you evaluate this exciting technology and help build a business case with our onsite proof of concept service - a fully managed and supported interactive display, typically onsite for between 1-3 months. All onsite training and consultancy is provided by our expert team and you can even redeem part of the rental costs should you wish to make an investment.

Book a demo  
Book an on-site trial
“I knew immediately that this was the right solution”

Learn more about how SMART interactive technology improved collaboration at IBSECAD.

Discover how SMART Interactive technology can improve team engagement and collaboration

Arrange a consultation

Download the Case Study

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