

Chairman of Buildoffsite – Role Profile

Job Title: Chairman of Buildoffsite

Background and context

Construction is one of the UK's most important industries, an enabling sector that is a major contributor to economic growth, across all sectors of the economy. It accounts for a substantial percentage of UK economic activity and provides employment for almost three million people. Growth in construction benefits many other parts of the economy. So it is in everyone's interests that the industry flourishes and is able to compete effectively at home and in the increasingly important markets overseas. If the UK construction industry is to thrive in the global market it must innovate to deliver continuous improvement in product and process.

The industrial strategy for construction, Construction 2025, sets out a vision where by 2025 construction has been radically transformed. It has some bold ambitions for 2025: a 33 per cent reduction in initial costs and in whole life costs, 50 per cent faster construction. 50 per cent lower emissions and a 50 per cent improvement in exports.

To achieve these ambitions, the construction industry needs to do things very differently. The future of the construction industry will increasingly resemble ways of working commonplace in the aerospace and automotive industries.

Buildoffsite promotes an improved understanding of quality off site solutions as an alternative to traditional construction. Unlocking step-change innovation in product, process and client value is an important contribution to the delivery of the vision for 2025. This would include the various aspects that enable this – DfMA, Logistics, lifecycle costing, behaviours, skills, etc.

Buildoffsite is an industry-wide campaigning organisation that promotes greater uptake of offsite techniques by UK construction. It is an alliance of clients, developers, designers, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, government, advisors and researchers. Member organisations cover the full industry spectrum and currently number c.115

For the benefits of offsite to be more widely understood and applied the offsite industry needs to make its case more effectively by increasing awareness, informing, enthusing, and setting standards. Buildoffsite champions better construction by acting as a catalyst in the use of offsite across all market sectors; its ambition is to achieve a 10-fold increase in the uptake of offsite.

Buildoffsite acts as the authoritative voice of the offsite industry. It speaks for the industry to all stakeholders, demonstrate the business case, sets standards for the design, manufacture, and construction process, resolves interfaces, provides an independent, authoritative source of data and provides a forum for discussion of the benefits and challenges inform and educate construction industry professionals.

Buildoffsite is led by our Chairman, Richard Ogden, who has indicated his desire to stand down in the near future. This presents an opportunity for a new leader to take the organisation forward, building on its success to date.

Buildoffsite

Background and legal status

Buildoffsite was established in 2003 out of a Government funded 'partners in innovation' project being delivered by **CIRIA** (the Construction Industry Research and Information Association). At its inception it was agreed that whilst Buildoffsite would operate as a standalone network and trading brand it would continue to be hosted by CIRIA*. Using CIRIA as the legal and commercial hosting entity enabled Buildoffsite to be established quickly and with minimal cost and to also deliver its ongoing operations in a very cost effective manner drawing on business infrastructure and support services from CIRIA on an 'as required' basis with little standing overhead.

*CIRIA operates a number of networks and initiatives on similar basis where there is no conflict of interest and the network or initiative is supportive of CIRIA's mission to 'champion performance improvement in construction and the environment' and operates in an open and collaborative way with all income being applied to furthering the networks aims.

Governance

Whilst hosted by CIRIA, Buildoffsite operates as an independent membership based network managed by an Executive Group of key delivery personnel and independents drawn from Buildoffsite's members, all led by the Chairman. The Executive Group comprises 15 members, all experienced individuals representing a good cross-section of the construction industry

The Executive Group draws on advice and support from the wider Buildoffsite Membership through ongoing engagement and regular Direction Group meetings. The Direction Group meetings provide insight into the potential opportunities and challenges for the development of the UK offsite industry and are open to all Buildoffsite Members to help support the continued development of the network and its activities.

Operations

Ongoing operations are delivered by a Core Team of 7 comprising the Chairman, experienced professionals and administrative support. The core team is supported by other Buildoffsite delivery personnel on an as required basis.

Additionally, there are a number of hubs (similar to specific interest groups) which focus on housing, the water industry, and retail. Further hubs, with a focus on rail, airports and manufacturing are planned.

Financials and growth

Buildoffsite has an annual income of some £600k per annum derived almost exclusively from membership subscriptions. Income is used to deliver Buildoffsite Events and activities and budgets are set each year to fund time charge costs, planned activities and to deliver a small contribution (surplus) to help maintain/build reserves.

There is an aspiration to grow Buildoffsite in the UK (primary focus) and internationally (Europe, India, Australia, New Zealand), the latter being in the early stages of development.

For further information go to <http://www.buildoffsite.com>

Job Purpose

The current Chairman's role combines leadership of Buildoffsite, both offsite champion and business development roles. Working typically 2-3 days a week, he actively engages with a wide range of stakeholders, these being both organisations who are already members of Buildoffsite and others who are not. He actively promotes offsite through meetings, ranging from 1:1 to presentations at conferences and management teams. Under his stewardship, Buildoffsite has grown from a start-up organisation, funded by Government, to a self-funded, well known and respected organisation with over 80 member organisations.

Going forward, the purpose of the Chairman's role will be to:

- Develop and deliver the Buildoffsite strategy, working with the Buildoffsite executive group
- Raising and promoting the profile of Buildoffsite, developing the business
- Engage with the construction and other related industries (eg, manufacturing, automobile, aerospace, shipbuilding) and other key business leaders to promote and develop the Buildoffsite organisation
- Maintain regular contact with senior managers from member organisations and monitor the delivery of member value, ensuring that the activities of Buildoffsite are aligned with members needs and expectations
- Promote and encourage innovation in Buildoffsite's activities
- Promotion of Buildoffsite to new member organisations and engagement with them.
- Represent Buildoffsite at key meetings with Government and industry leaders at events
- Lead Buildoffsite teams as they engage with relevant organisations, promoting and arguing the case for offsite solutions
- Develop and lead a growing and sustainable organisation in accordance with sound business principles
- Lead the Buildoffsite executive group and the small administrative team
- Chair/lead Buildoffsite meetings
- Steer the Buildoffsite work programme to meet current and future needs of the membership

The Person

It is expected that person will have the following attributes:

- Extensive knowledge of the UK Construction industry, its key companies and senior managers
- A solid background either as a client or as a contractor, subcontractor or supplier working in industry, either in construction or a related industry
- Excellent networking skills, Industry professional, known, experienced, confident, a good front person
- An ability to promote Buildoffsite and its membership team
- First-hand knowledge of the role of Offsite solutions in enabling more efficient, better value construction projects
- Challenges the status quo and promotes/leads/change/improvement
- An ability to draw in expertise from a range of sources, creating links and read across. Shares best practice
- Inspirational at board, senior management level

In addition, it would be desirable if the person had:

- A proven track record of developing subscription based industry organisations
- Understanding and awareness of the relevant practices and capabilities in other relevant industries (eg, manufacturing, automobile, aerospace, shipbuilding)
- A recognised construction industry professional qualification

Working Environment

- It is envisaged that the role is a part time role, with a high degree of flexibility.
- Precise details, including working arrangements and hours, to be developed with the candidate
- The Buildoffsite office is based in CIRIA's office in the Barbican area of London, but it is anticipated that much of the Chairman's time will be spent out of the office
- Consideration would be given to the candidate operating in an NED type role
- Key relationships are the Buildoffsite executive group and the CEO of CIRIA
- Externally interfaces with funders, leaders, investors, contractors, consultants, clients, manufacturers, specialists, academia.

Boundaries

- Non-negotiable
 - Responsibility for the developing and implementing an effective strategy to achieve the Buildoffsite aspirations:
 - To lead a transformation of construction method in the UK towards offsite / modular / industrialised / pre-assembled construction
 - To sustain an excellent, effective and respected organisation
 - Leadership of an organisation with high standards of integrity and governance
 - Reporting to a board broadly similar to the current Executive board.
- Negotiable
 - Structure of Buildoffsite organisation
 - Method of engagement with members / government / other industry bodies
 - Development of international opportunities
 - Title; days per week; remuneration