



**CONSTRUCTION
PRODUCTIVITY
CONFERENCE**

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28.01.25
CENTRAL LONDON

**FOCUSING ON INNOVATIVE
STEPS REVOLUTIONISING
THE INDUSTRY**

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Jaimie Johnston: Hitting Productivity Head On

With rising build costs and increasing risk profiles – attempts to improve productivity have proven difficult in a sector too often defined by tight profit margins, aggressive procurement practices, talent shortages and uncertain work pipelines.

The Construction Productivity Conference will interrogate the issues influencing efficiency but most importantly, the speakers will also analyse success stories. Taking place at 30 Euston Square, London on 28 January 2025 – the conference programme looks to address the UK construction ‘productivity puzzle’ head on.

When speaker **Jaimie Johnston MBE, Head of Global Systems for Bryden Wood** was asked, in terms of productivity, is the construction industry getting anything right? He provided a robust rebuttal.

Clearly the automotive industry is the ‘poster child’ of productivity but let’s get this clear right from the get-go, through the big four – lean principles, standardisation + repeatability, platform superstructure and continuous improvement – dramatic advances in outcomes are now a reality. This combination is already demonstrating how schedules can be halved using far fewer operatives, achieving higher quality and safety standards together with reducing carbon emissions.

Making a seismic shift, new delivery strategies are coming to the fore. A platform approach using pre-engineered components does not necessarily shout groundbreaking but through our research and testing, we have been able to demonstrate some massive productivity gains.

When we built The Forge, which is one of our most award-winning projects, the University of Cambridge conducted several studies demonstrating that we had doubled productivity, even though this was the first platform system of its kind.

From day one it was a massive step forward. Now we are entering the realms of continual improvement cycles. Other users can now pick up the platform design, develop it and continue to improve it. If people adopted platforms in the way that the Construction Playbook and the IPA talk about, the potential to scale up the benefits across sectors are immense.

Making the Shift to Super Manufactured Components

Through platforms, I believe that we can reflect the automotive industry. So exactly as IKEA has trained us to make furniture, or how the automotive industry no longer uses engineers and mechanics to build cars – people outside the construction arena can be trained to do these tasks.

Platforms allow us to make that shift and also bring in to play super manufactured components. We are not reliant on workmanship or trades anymore – we have nailed all the interfaces and the accuracy by the manufacturing of these components.

We have also focused our attention on the concept of a superstructure as a carrier frame. Currently when the superstructure goes up, the accuracy is plus or minus circa 40mm. The facade team then have to carry out the site survey to get the facade to fit and the MEP team have to do the same.

However, when the automotive industry makes a chassis, it is millimetre perfect, and everything just clips into place. Something we tried hard to do was to focus on the superstructure and get it to be built super-fast and super-accurate. That then allows follow-on trades to do much better and more productive work.

Mobilising a New Workforce

CITB says we need another 250,000 people to join the construction workforce between now and 2028. One of the aspects of efficiency is making the workers that we have more productive, but that is not enough, we must find ways to increase the workforce.

By simplifying things, we lower barriers and can bring new entrants onboard. For example, the prototypes of platforms that we did with the Ministry of Justice, we did with serving prisoners and built pharma facilities with ex-Gurkhas – so we are not only improving productivity but making a difference.

Secure Your Place

Taking place on 28 January 2025 at 30 Euston Square, central London – the Construction Productivity Conference pulls no punches and looks to address the ‘productivity puzzle’ head on. Tickets are £245 + VAT which includes access to the conference, pop-up exhibition and networking area, lunch and refreshments throughout the day. To hear more from Jamie Johnston, for the full speaker lineup and to secure your place, head to: www.constructionproductivity.co.uk