



SMART THINKING – SMART PROJECTS.

We have witnessed profound changes in the construction industry for the past several years. The opening up of previously inaccessible markets, increased deregulation in Europe and greater international interconnectivity are all factors that create new challenges as well as new opportunities for companies. This not only applies to larger players in the sector that have been active internationally for some time. It also applies increasingly to smaller and medium-sized companies in the construction industry that may have only been active previously at a regional level. For example, new opportunities to design, construct or manage projects for their clients in new markets.

The project landscape is extremely diverse: leading architects are providing designs for investors in mega-cities, new boom regions, gigantic prestige projects and luxury accommodation. Manufacturing and distribution companies are expanding and adding to their production and logistics locations. Billions are being invested in energy supply facilities and transportation infrastructure projects. In the search for new channels of finance and facilities management services, models are being created that redistribute the tasks and the risks of partners in development contracts.

Projects of every size now involve more planning, coordination and management. Ever shorter construction periods are blurring the lines between individual construction phases and thus challenging traditional areas of competence. Consequently, professional project and risk management have increased in importance throughout the entire construction process, starting with project development and planning, through construction execution and subsequent management.

This first annual issue of *Projects worldwide* includes examples of how some of these new challenges have been addressed using the think project! platform.

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