



An introduction to Asta Development; from Gantt chart software to BIM

Our core product, **Asta Powerproject**, was first launched as a construction industry project management software tool in 1988. At that time, it was the first project management software with a logic-linked bar chart. It was also the first tool that allowed users to draw links on the bar chart. Prior to this, other products could produce output showing the logic links between tasks but they did not allow users to enter the data by drawing directly on the bar chart.

Just as the adoption of BIM is understandably causing debate in the main contractor world today, so was the potential of software based Gantt chart back in 1989. It is as essential today to understand how BIM is changing the way our products are used as it was over 20 years ago when we were successful because we knew what the industry needed. At that time, the construction project planner community got very excited about our new product because it took account of the world they operated in. It was a project management tool that not only offered more power . i.e. a screen-based logic-linked bar chart . but also a far more intuitive user interface that proved highly attractive. Planners throughout the world started to adopt **Asta Powerproject** as their preferred project management software tool and it was soon being used on thousands of projects . office buildings, schools and housing developments as well as highly complex projects like the extension of Schipol Airport in the Netherlands and even the construction of the external fuel tank of the Space Shuttle.

Asta and BIM; looking forward

As a leading technology provider to the construction industry we have a large user base and play a key role in underpinning many projects from simple through to highly complex, working across the sector with all who are involved in running projects and who rely on project performance. A key element of our product offering is Time Scheduling which sits at the heart of every project and will remain a vital component no matter how technology changes over time, but we are well aware that we need to continue to adapt to stay in tune with the way in which construction projects operate.

Our software has evolved throughout the last 20 years, being driven by input from our customers so that it reflects the needs of today's construction planning professionals. As technology continues to evolve we recognise the need to keep changing and in particular to ensure that we revise our technology offering as needed in line with the growing demand for BIM.

We have taken some initial steps in this area by working with leading vendors such as Tekla, Synchro, DStudio and Navisworks to provide links to 4D modelling and have already seen such collaboration used to support some significant projects. However, we fully appreciate that BIM is much more than 4D and is an emerging and evolving process that is generating many questions and significant uncertainty in the construction world. As the take up of BIM gathers pace, we are keen to work with all involved throughout the process to share

experience and increase our understanding so that we can ensure we fulfil our role as effectively as we can. Having built our company on the principle of making time and resource management easier to understand, control and communicate we want to bring this approach to the new processes that BIM is bringing to light.

As BIM becomes increasingly important to all of our users we will be featuring it as the central theme for our National User Forum on 23rd February at which we are very fortunate to have input from leading speakers such as Chief Construction Adviser to the government Paul Morrell; David Philp, Cabinet Office Head of BIM Implementation; and Professor Arto Kiviniemi, Chair of the Salford Centre for Research and Innovation and leader of the Building Informatics Research team.

Asta Powerproject provides full visibility and control over all project management activity. Its robust and easy-to-use tools mean project managers can be more proactive and remain in control. Simple project navigation and role-based views enhance the users experience further.

Considered by many to be one of the world's leading project management software solutions, **Asta Powerproject** is today actively used by over 3,000 organisations worldwide and over 60,000 users. In Europe alone, it is used by:

- " 27 of the top 30 UK contractors (1)
- " 15 of the top 20 UK housebuilders (2)
- " 11 of the top 16 German contractors (1)
- " 10 of the top 11 Dutch contractors (1)

(1) Building magazine, European league of contractors, Jan 2011

(2) The Construction Index, Top 20 UK Housebuilders 2010

With **Asta Powerproject** you can:

- Create accurate and precise project schedules
- Use logical linking and multiple link types
- Get total visibility and control over all your project activities
- Accurately track your progress and meet key milestones
- Use unlimited baselines for comparing your planned vs. actual
- Produce high quality graphical reports
- Exchange data easily with Microsoft Project and Primavera
- Track project costs and resources ensuring you deliver on budget
- Deliver projects on time

"Asta Powerproject is far easier to use than other planning tools and far more visual. In addition it is great for communicating information – in fact it is the best tool I've ever seen for this."

Gavin Clegg, North Midland Construction