

Olympic Park Delivery

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With news that the Olympic Park has been officially completed and formally handed over to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) with 200 days remaining until the opening ceremony, we are tremendously proud of our involvement in the various projects.

As a case in point, DDAI completed the network cabling at the Aquatic Centre and Eton Manor – the purpose-built bespoke tennis centre – and also the Polyclinic at the heart of the Athletes' Village, a facility that will provide state of the art medical care.

These undertakings were extremely complex and a great deal of experience from the prime contractors was required in order to project manage them through to successful completion. There were a number of facets of the overall project that were of particular note, such as the collaborative approach to establishing timelines and co-ordinating the various contractors and stakeholders and also the security management.

These are certainly not concerns unique to the Olympic Park projects, but it was striking how the national importance of the schemes made these two elements come to the fore all the more.

For example, at the Aquatic Centre there had to be very precise management of the order in which various contractors were engaged in order to avoid delays – we, contracted to provide the networks and cabling, could be brought in only after the necessary milestones in construction had been reached, and then complete our activities in short order before other contractors, such as those governing the tiling of the pool itself, could arrive.

It was this logistical management of a startling number of companies, construction teams, suppliers and contractors, further multiplied by the numerous individual build projects, that made the Olympic Park delivery a success.

But, unlike many construction projects, a major consideration for LOCOG was the very highest levels of security – a thoroughly understandable concern and, if mis-managed, one that could have readily derailed the strict timelines. Security is always a part of construction planning to some degree, but in this instance, it was vital.

There could be no tolerance for relaxing the security measures in order to help timeliness, but nor could the project management be allowed to be hampered by overwhelming procedures and requirements. The perfect balance had to be struck. A disciplined combination of biometric passes, security inductions and of course background checks meant that LOCOG and its security partners could be confident that suitable precautions were being taken and upheld, and through the collaborative method of planning the safeguards, it was managed in a way that was not a burden to the contractors.

It was therefore of little surprise that the nine main competition venues of the Olympic Park were completed and handed over so smoothly – the projects were so meticulously planned from the start that success was practically guaranteed.