Dear readers,

Welcome you to the new issue of the Journal of Systems Integration. Allow me, apart from the past issues, where I spent brief description of contents of the issue, to deal just with one topic and that is a new phenomenon e.g. Building Information Modeling (BIM). BIM is not only one of the most promising developments in the architecture, engineering, and construction industries, it is also very nice and significant example of systems integration. BIM not only changes how building drawings and visualizations are created, but also dramatically alters all of the key processes involved in putting a building together. Concept of BIM covers a wide range of processes and technologies used to modeling, visualization, analyses, simulation, and documentation.

From ICT point of view BIM integrates many different applications for different processes (tasks) like Architectural, Building Performance, Building services, Construction Management, Dataserver, Development Tools, Facility Management, General Modeling, Geographic Information System, Model Viewer etc. including appropriate databases of BIM components with graphic and nongraphic data.

From human point of view BIM brings together: Owner, Contractors, Architects, Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Construction Managers, Civil Engineers and Interior Designers altogether through one integrated system.

BIM enables all participants to see various processes in construction and building through different views e.g. dimensions similar to Business Intelligence systems. While 3D BIM is used to present the building design to visually review and refine the design, the 4D BIM is defined as assigning the element of time. The 5D BIM adds cost to the each element of the project and enables to show, where significant costs occur and similarly along the time-line where in the construction program such peaks occur. The 6D BIM is considered an “as-built” model delivered to the owner or facility manager as the project is completed. The 6D BIM is updated to record any on-site design variations, and populated with relevant building component data including operation and maintenance manuals, product details, warranty and replacement data, photos, links to relevant websites, etc.

More details about BIM you can found in the article Sergey Kalinichuk: Building Information Modeling Comprehensive Overview.

Dear readers. If you’ve had some experience with BIM, do not hesitate to write an article to share your knowledge with other readers of our journal. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Best regards

Zdenek Molnar – Editor in Chief