

## **Building Construction Authority (BCA) Updates May 2015**

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### **Construction Demand**

Total construction demand set a new record of \$37.7 billion in 2014 generated by a higher volume of institutional and civil engineering projects. These projects included the various major contracts awarded for the construction of Thomson-East Coast Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line as well as land preparation works for the upcoming Changi Airport development and the Sengkang hospitals and Tampines Town Hub developments.

BCA forecasts that Construction contracts for the built environment sector is expected to reach between \$29 billion to \$36 billion in 2015, given the sustained pipeline of public sector projects.

Public sector projects are expected to account for an estimated 60% or \$18 billion to \$21 billion of the total construction demand this year. Whilst public housing projects are anticipated to be slightly lower, public construction demand will remain stable due to an increase in industrial projects and the sustained pipeline of institutional and civil engineering works.

Private sector construction demand is expected to moderate to between \$11 billion to \$15 billion compared to \$18 billion in 2014 due to global uncertainties and a slowdown in private home sales. However a rise in private sector civil engineering projects such as the proposed infrastructure works for the development of the Changi East Runway 3 is likely to cushion the impact.

### **Construction Excellence Awards**

BCA have issued a record number of 23 Builders with Construction Excellence Award (CEA) awards in 2015 for 30 projects. The CEA recognizes builders' overall management of the projects, technical capability and innovations including the design complexity and the quality of the completed project.

The Construction Excellence Award gives recognition to construction projects which have demonstrated the highest standards of construction excellence in Singapore. It encourages Builders to generate high standards of project management, technical inputs and workmanship in their projects.

All projects were constructed with project periods ranging from 12 months to 62 months for the construction of the Promenade MRT station and associated tunnels for the downtown line. Site limitations that had to be overcome included soft clay soil, proximity to MRT lines and stations, conservation of trees, restricted operation hours, no-delivery rules and high traffic volume.

Despite challenges like these, Woh Hup (Private) Limited completed two residential projects, Interlace and Marina Bay Suites ahead of time by about 2 1/2 months and 1 month respectively. Productivity was increased by using various formwork systems, precast elements and prefabricated steel components.



Other projects awarded include The Glyndebourne built by Tiong Seng Contractors. The company adopted Building Information Modelling (BIM) throughout the design, construction and as-built stage. The builder also used productive elements such as Prefabricated Bathroom Units (PBU) and precast Panels. Spectra Secondary School built by Kwan Yong Construction Pte Ltd was the first government school to include the use of BIM throughout the project.

Since the first CEA awards in 1986 which placed a high emphasis on workmanship and project management, other pre-qualifying criteria such as worksite safety and innovation in terms of productive technologies have been introduced.

