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Development Bureau
Technical Circular (Works) No. 9/2025

Adoption of Construction Robots

Scope

This Circular sets out the policy and requirements on the adoption of Highly-Effective Construction Robots (HECR) in capital works contracts, with pre-tender estimate **exceeding $30 million**, to be tendered on or after **1 April 2026**.

2. Tenders invited prior to 1 April 2026 shall adopt HECR stipulated in this Circular as far as practicable.

Effective Date

3. This Circular takes immediate effect.

Effect on Existing Circulars and Circular Memoranda

4. This Circular has no effect on existing circulars and circular memoranda.

Background

5. Construction robots are machines designed to perform construction activities with functions of automated processes, remote control or artificial intelligence. Among the diverse and ever growing spectrum of construction robots in the global market, the Development Bureau has been driving the adoption of Highly-Effective Construction Robots (HECR) that exhibit the characteristics of cost-effectiveness, scalability, and necessity for on-site construction[1].

6. Over the past few years, works departments have been piloting HECR in capital works contracts for carrying out construction tasks, plant operation, material transportation, as well as inspection and testing. These pilot applications delivered remarkable results with enhanced productivity, improved site safety and better work quality.

7. Building on the success of pilot applications, it is proposed to adopt selected HECR in suitable capital works contracts to enhance the overall performance.

Policy

8. Capital works contracts, with pre-tender estimate exceeding $30 million, shall adopt HECR as stipulated in the "Inventory of Adopting Highly-Effective Construction Robots in Capital Works Contracts" (The **Inventory**).[2]

9. For subvented projects and capital works projects entrusted to non-government agencies such as Airport Authority and MTR Corporation Limited, the policy should also be followed as far as practicable.

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[1] "Cost effectiveness" refers to significantly enhance productivity, safety or quality in on-site construction with high cost-effectiveness. "Scalability" refers to flexibility in wide adoption of the HECR in similar construction projects in HK. "Necessity for on-site construction" refers to robotic tasks which are difficult to carry out off-site and must be performed on-site.

[2] The Inventory set out the details of selected HECR such as "Works Contract Types adopting HECR", "Frequency of Adoption", "Baseline Technical Requirements" and "Productivity Measurement" which are accessible at the DEVB website.

10. Besides the adoption of HECR as stipulated in the Inventory, project offices are encouraged to continue to proactively identify and deploy other innovative construction robots into capital works contracts to enhance overall performance.

Adoption of Highly-Effective Construction Robots

Tender Stage

11. When preparing tender documents, the employer/client shall specify the use of HECR with details as stipulated in the Inventory, which sets out the baseline technical requirements for adopting HECR. Apart from these requirements, additional provisions or enhancement to the Inventory may be imposed to address specific requirements of individual works contract if appropriate and justified.

Construction Stage

12. To facilitate the efficient mobilisation of construction robots, project teams must maintain reasonable site tidiness[3]. The construction site shall have clear pathways, organised material storage, and prompt waste removal. A clutter-free environment ensures safe and unhindered robot operation, maximising productivity and project efficiency on site.

13. Project offices shall measure the productivity of the adoption of HECR according to the Inventory and keep proper record.

Upkeep the "Inventory of Adopting HECR in Capital Works Contracts"

14. Given the rapid and continuous development of the robotic technology, the Inventory is a living document subject to future updates by the Development Bureau as appropriate.

[3] Specific requirements on site tidiness is stipulated in the Inventory.

Exemption

15. On exceptional grounds, the subject officer at D2 or above of the managing works department may exempt the adoption of HECR as required under this Circular due to, for example, substantial impact on project delivery or projects of little technical content.

Enquiries

16. Enquiries on this Circular shall be addressed to Chief Assistant Secretary (Works) 1.

(Ricky C K LAU)
Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)