

"Our system is called The Costain Way - everyone has access to it

"Costain has helped shape the centre's strategy during its formation"

JENNIFER SCHOOILING, CAMBRIDGE CENTRE FOR SMART INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

"This can lead to creating networks on the topic with other people around the business," Mr Embley says. "We also have an internal social media network so we can internally solve ideas collaboratively through suggestions from others."

The person who suggested the idea can then go back to the client and see if it will work, or go on to develop it further. For larger ideas

they then go on to develop it on a project," he says. "If they then see potential for its use in the wider business, they can pitch it to the board for funding and can then go on to develop it."

"Our customers are all very receptive to innovation and happy to work with us on it," Mr Embley says. "Many also encourage it during the tender process and then work collaboratively with us."

performance of our customers through these innovations, but it's not just about innovation for innovation's sake," he says. "We have a clear programme of where we're trying to take the business to in the future."

Read the full article
For more on Costain's strategy and innovations go online
cniplus.co.uk/special-reports

Health & Safety: Vibration

A new model for trigger time

Hilti is showing how to achieve a better balance between tool vibration readings and productivity



PRODUCT FOCUS
NEIL GRAHAM

Low vibration ratings have a direct impact on productivity on site, as the lower the vibration rating of a tool, the longer it can be used for.

Hilti's reputation for reliability is second to none. Although the cost for us to buy or to hire out the range of Hilti low-vibration products does reflect this, we find most users are aware of the reasoning behind it, and if they are looking to get a job done quickly they are prepared to pay the extra.

Something that surprised us recently was that the newest Hilti models actually had slightly

higher vibration readings than the previous models.

Medium breakers have always been the most popular breaker with our customers and one of the most utilised tools on our hire fleet.

It's also become a fiercely contested arena for vibration levels, and what appeared to be a race to the bottom.

But, Hilti's new medium-weight (7.9 kg) TE 700-AVR, which replaces its popular TE 706-AVR, actually has a higher vibration reading: 6.5 m/s² versus 5.5 m/s².

This means a user can operate the new breaker for a total of four hours and 44 minutes in an eight-hour day.

That is almost two hours less than its predecessor, which could



productive when hammering.

We believe this change represents a more realistic approach to a user's actual trigger time in a working day, taking into account breaks and non-continuous use, plus an increase in real power which should enable users to get the job done more quickly.

We wonder if this is because the industry is moving more towards achieving a balance between productivity and low-vibration readings/health and safety priorities.

Perhaps we will now see a more realistic approach to the balance between these priorities from manufacturers.

Neil Graham is managing director at The Hireman