**COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT FEBRUARY 2022**

**Date of Reported Meeting:** Thursday 25th November 2021

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 17th March 2022

**Vice Chairs**

Tom Allen and Stephen Edmondson have now become Co-Vice Chairs of the Commercial Committee.

**Mission Statement**

Tom has volunteered to write a mission statement for the Commercial Committee to give a clear direction for the committee.

**Market Trends: Q3 2021 Statistics Review**

It was noted these showed a significant spike in demand in the second Quarter, which was possibly HS2 orders or pent-up demand from the pandemic. The group reported that the market was strong currently although availability of people and materials remained a difficult ongoing challenge.

**Standardised Approach to Contract Term and PI Insurance Premiums**

The group have discussed that it would be helpful to standardised set of terms as a starting point would be useful to set expectations with contractors and provide some tools to educate people both within the FPS and externally.

**HS2 General Update**

There has been a push to bring in workers from overseas, but the government have pushed back and are being inflexible over their rules. However, it looks as though this will improve due to the need for workers.

A pilot project has started for the Trainee CPCS card. This will allow piling rig operators to be trained on-site. HS2 have been supporting the project by supplying a simulator as part of the training and the trial shall initially start with FPS Members working on HS2.

There has been a great deal of delays due to a lack of rig drivers as well as issues with sourcing materials. Prices of materials are also increasing. Importing and exporting cost are increasing the prices of materials but C1 and C2 are hoping to progress in early 2022.

**Working with Build UK and EFFC**

The EFFC are following a lot of what the FPS are already doing but the FPS should be following them with regards to digitalisation. It is a difficult challenge owing to the speed of digital adaptation gives individual contractors as commercial advantage. Neither the EFFC or FPS should interfere with this, however, both should be seeking opportunities to ensure there is a level playing field in terms of standards and working practices.

**Fuel Duty Update**

The group have discussed the coming change of going from red to white diesel. There is a general anxiety about the risk of site security, and it has been suggested that the responsibility should be passed onto the principal contractor. Stephen and Tom are going to look at making changes to the Schedule of Attendance.