Building a smarter, more connected future

Why O$_2$ for construction

What's going on in construction?

The UK construction industry is currently facing unprecedented challenges. Companies are under intense pressure from new government targets aimed at reducing lifecycle costs by a third and shortening build times by half. In January 2018, the Office for National Statistics reported that output had fallen at the fastest rate in six years.

Meanwhile, Chartered Institute of Building Research found that the total number of workers over 60 in the construction industry has increased more than any other age group, while the total number of workers under 30 is the biggest reduction. The current political and economic uncertainty doesn't make this any easier, with concerns that departure from the EU will bring labour restrictions that deepen the skills shortage. In fact, The Federation of Master Builders has reported that the UK construction industry is facing a 'cliff edge' in terms of its access to EU workers.

Many construction companies are also delaying investment decisions until Brexit negotiations have been finalised – and they're wary of impromptu tax hikes or trade tariffs landing from overseas.

And on top of all that, margins continue to be squeezed, with £800m lost every year to stolen plant equipment.

So with all that in mind, it's no surprise that construction companies are currently finding it tough to make decisions with confidence.

But it's not all doom and gloom. New technologies and innovative approaches continue to emerge that promise to transform the construction industry.

O2 business

Laying the groundwork for tomorrow

From AI, VR, autonomous drones, assistive exoskeletons and even massive-scale 3D printing, so much is already being done around the 'art of the possible'.

But exciting as these new innovations are, they won't be implemented overnight. There's some serious groundwork that must be laid first. Progress comes one step at a time, and the right platform has to be in place to support whichever route construction companies choose to go down.

It's about understanding which solution is right for you, and ensuring it can be deployed effectively in line with your business goals. It's only when the right connectivity is in place, that construction companies can most effectively incorporate new technology and invention into their businesses.

Connectivity is essential across so many aspects of construction, from people and their devices, to vehicles and supply chains, to buildings, equipment and machinery.

In this regard, O₂ can help by delivering that connectivity infrastructure, allowing you to start that journey, because there's **no 'art of the possible' without a 'how to' attached**.

We're learning more and more about your business needs, and the practical services required to run an efficient construction project.

O₂ business

O₂ keeps construction connected

We help construction companies to implement flexible connectivity infrastructures that make sites work better together. We deploy tools that allow people to work in smarter ways on the move. And we deliver real-time data insights on equipment and vehicles to improve efficiency and utilisation.

We're also the first network provider to offer truly integrated connectivity, with a single platform for fixed, mobile, voice and data services: O₂ Gateway. This removes the hassle of managing multiple suppliers and complex legacy IT infrastructure. It's a single integrated network, with one end-to-end SLA.

All of which is backed by the only UK mobile network that's CAS(T) certified and approved to deliver critical national infrastructure projects for the UK government, giving you the assurance that communications are taking place on an entirely secure platform.

For constructors in particular, the ability to join up IT and communications infrastructure across multiple sites can help to rationalise increasingly-squeezed costs. And by outsourcing network management tasks as part of the overall agreement, you'll relieve some of the burden on your back-office teams, allowing them to focus on other things.

O₂ business

Projects powered by real-time data

The Internet of Things (IoT) is the world's network of connected online devices which help people to work more efficienctly and effectively. We're contributing to the IoT with innovations like smart sensors and data analytics tools to give you real-time information on your construction operations. For example, we can give you full visibility on how all your resources and assets are being used, so you can allocate them better and predict when shortages might occur.

This extends to things like vehicle maintenance, so rather than having multiple vehicles off the road at the same time, you can get an advance view and adapt service schedules accordingly. Electronic tracking also means you are more likely to recover them if stolen.

Connected vehicles can also reduce fuel costs and CO_2 emissions by identifying the fastest and most efficient routes to a job, or the closest worker. Make faster and more informed decisions with access to live information through connected assets.

We can help you to collect data from multiple channels, such as your CRM, HR systems and mobile devices as people complete tasks. This provides assurance that jobs are being completed in the right way, along with valuable insights on how to improve workflows and reduce bottlenecks.

O_2 business

Meet LUCA, our data insights unit

LUCA uses data and statistics gathered by our smart sensors, with mathematics and artificial intelligence to solve real business problems and optimise your processes. It offers valuable insight into your business, helping you to make informed decisions. Simply define your objectives, and run pilots or full-scale projects according to your requirements.

From data ingestion tools and hosting, to analytics and visualisation, we offer both on-premise rollouts for large companies, and flexible cloud models for those with limited resources.

O₂ business

Everything starts with you

We think we know the industry pretty well, but every customer we work with is different, and their needs are always unique.

So we get under the skin of how you operate, and dig into the real issues you're facing. We explore how you currently use technology, and where you want to go with it. That way, we can identify O₂ network solutions that deliver the specific outcomes you're seeking.

Many construction businesses ask us to assess their communications and advise on how to make savings and operational improvements.

To identify solutions that deliver relevant outcomes, we start by building an understanding of customers and getting beneath the surface of their issues. We explore how they currently use technology and where they want to go with it.

Engagements start with a general understanding of the customer's challenges and their marketplace then these are refined using structured stakeholder interviews. These interviews provide the basis for innovation sessions where O₂ suggests areas to explore that address the business objectives of the stakeholders concerned.

These engagements can then be followed up using a variety of O₂ methodologies…

O₂ business

Assessments built around you

Mobile Maturity Assessment: a practical and actionable 1-day analysis of mobile readiness, assessing 11 strategic business areas. We'll help you identify the relevant stakeholders, and then bring the right experts to your premises for a flexible session focused on meaningful outputs. On the back of this, we'll produce a report with agreed targets, which we can discuss at a follow-up session to define next steps.

Security Technology Roadmap: developed by looking at processes, governance, supplier relationships and security spending. From this, we can give you a Security Technology Roadmap with clear recommendations on things like supplier consolidation for cost savings. We can also leverage our partnership with BAE Systems to give you real-time security advice. This goes beyond just reporting and alerts to actually tell you what's wrong and what to do about it.

Commercial and Governance Reviews: to gauge the performance of technology and billing service and address any issues or challenges

O₂ business

Powered by innovation

Wayra Innovation Pitches: O$_2$'s accelerator programme, Wayra, works with construction start-ups to bring innovations to your business and revolutionise the way you operate. Innovation Pitches, facilitated by a dedicated team with relevant sector experience and a thorough understanding of the issues facing construction today, introduce customers to relevant start-ups, which include:

Mobilus, a company that produces bone-conduction technology for integration into standard hard hats, so people can make and receive phone calls without the need for usual hands-free systems.

BaseStone, a start-up that's digitising a lot of manual construction processes and enabling easy performance reporting at scale, for big national projects like HS2 and Crossrail.

Security specialists Red Sift, who are building an open cloud platform to improve cybersecurity by using AI and machine learning to unlock threat data and turn it into active protection.

CCTV innovators Xanview, who're redefining video surveillance by offering a simple online interface to view and manage multiple camera feeds from different sites.

O$_2$ business

Van Elle

[Van Elle](#) is a piling and rail infrastructure company that employs 520 people across three UK offices, with around 180 vehicles and over 100 rigs also at its disposal. With so many people and such a major fleet to manage, Van Elle relies on being able to track and analyise driver behaviour and vehicle performance with real-time information in order to be successful.

We provided Van Elle with O₂ Smart Tracking, which not only helped Van Elle to see where their vehicles were, but also if any needed repair and how much fuel was being used. Van Elle could also see how well drivers were performing, whether they were using the best routes, and whether they were working for too long.

Drivers also loved the system, as it made their job easier, helped them improve their driving habits, and offered complete transparency and accountability in the event of accidents.

Using O₂ Smart Tracking, Van Elle was able to achieve:

- 5% reduction in fuel costs
- 7% increase in productivity
- 10% reduction in idle time

VAN ELLE
TOTAL FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS

O₂ business

Case studies

SAINT-GOBAIN

Saint-Gobain

Multinational construction materials manufacturer, Saint-Gobain, asked us to simplify the management of their communications estate, as well as audit and rationalise their fixed services estate.

We created the platforms to help them yield 33% savings, providing the delivery, technical support and customer service, underpinned by a bespoke commercial model. But the most valuable difference has been how we worked with them over a sustained five-year period.

We built a dedicated and flexible team, which included:

• Bid management and contract specialists

• Product teams and financial accountants

• The O₂ Enterprise Customer Service Team was on hand to answer their users' day-to-day issues

• Simplified supplier management

• Commercial flexibility

For one of Saint-Gobain's subsidiary companies, Jewson, we've enhanced their fixed-line and mobile comms with a new digital IP telephony system and Mobile Data Terminals in all delivery vehicles. The system hosted in the cloud, serves over 600 Jewson branches and is fully managed by O₂, ensuring customers can always get through the the right person, faster.

O₂ business

Amey

Amey, one of the UK's leading public services providers, wanted to optimise its IT and communications – and make it a value-adding differentiator for its diverse client base.

Amey's parent company, Ferrovial, already had a global relationship with Telefónica, so working with O₂ was a natural fit.

We took over the management of Amey's total Wide Area Network, managing the entire migration process to ensure no break in service to their customers. We're now working together to turn communications into a platform that supports the next phase of their business growth.

It's a global partnership that's delivering both cost savings and a transformed, managed service.

O₂ business

Case studies

ISS

ISS has been an O₂ customer since 2010, initially just for mobile phones.

We're now their partner for fixed voice services, vehicle fleet management, MDM services, managed WAN, workforce automation and app services, as well as over 7,000 mobile devices.

This gives ISS better control and security over their full estate of devices. They can deliver updates efficiently, and it's also made the user experience significantly better.

We provided technology for their engineering fleet service, using our workforce automation platform, that helps them deliver precisely what their customers want. Engineers have improved access to emails, apps and the business tools they need for job scheduling, route optimisation and stock control.

O₂ business

A construction team dedicated to you

Our people and partners make sure your services go beyond 'just good enough', and we don't propose technology or innovation for the sake of it. We have a dedicated team of experts focused solely on construction, who have extensive experience in the sector, and who fully understand the important part O₂ plays in both overcoming today's challenges and capitalising on new opportunities.

As members of COMIT we're dedicated to helping the construction industry make the best use of technology – and we actively work with others to promote and develop best practices.

Together, we'll make sure you achieve long-term value by aligning ourselves to your business vision.

O₂ business

To find out more about O₂ solutions for the construction industry, please visit:
www.o2.co.uk/enterprise/sectors/construction

Telefónica

O₂ business