

# Overseas Region Newsletter

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## January 2019

### The CITB

CITB outsources 337 staff and sells plant card scheme. The Construction Industry Training Board is outsourcing a raft of its back-office functions.

The move will affect 337 staff with the “majority” transferring over to new provider Shared Services Connected Ltd (SSCL). The move is part of CITB’s Vision 2020 programme to “take on a more strategic and influential role focusing on securing the right training mix, high standards and quality assurance building employer confidence in the market.”

The programme has already seen CITB announce plans to exit direct training. From February SSCL will take over HR, Finance, Procurement, Technology and Change (Corporate Performance), Apprenticeship Processing and certain Customer Operations. Sarah Beale, CEO of CITB, said the move “will modernise our systems and bring the latest innovations in service to our customers.”

She added: It will allow CITB to focus on our priorities and become a leaner, more agile organisation that delivers the skills needed by British construction. “CITB has also confirmed it is selling its Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) to awarding organisation NOCN Group – Braden Connolly, Director of Products and Services at CITB, said: “We already have a successful relationship with NOCN Group – having sold our Cskills Awards to them last August.”

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### Australia

Tens of thousands of plastic bags and glass bottles have been diverted from landfill and repurposed to create asphalt for a South Australian road.

Contractor Downer and the South Australian city of Onkaparinga teamed up with resource recovery and recycling companies Close the Loop and Red Group for the project. A trial with the city of Hume in Victoria had been announced in May .



Downer worked closely with Close the Loop to tailor waste products such as soft plastics to suit a road construction application.

“Our close partnership with Downer, along with our collaborative partnership with Red Group has allowed us to design, develop and manufacture sustainable products using problematic waste streams,” said Nerida Mortlock, general manager of Close the Loop Australia.

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### Malaysia



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There has always been a strong correlation between construction sector and economic growth of Malaysia. The contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the nation as well as its socio-economic advancement by the construction sector is substantial through capital accumulation, revenue generation and employment creation, among others. Here, Top 10 of Malaysia gives a brief take on its list of the top construction companies in Malaysia that have been at the forefront of nation-building.

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### California



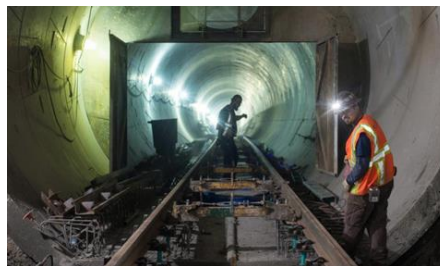
High Speed Rail, Southern California No project in the country comes with a higher price tag than the reported \$64 billion California High Speed Rail designed to scoot passengers from San Francisco to Los Angeles in a swift two hours and 40 minutes. Construction kicked off in 2015 and the finish of the first phase should have passengers moving in 2025, with subsequent portions opening in 2029. Once all that wraps up, expect Sacramento and San Diego to get in on the need for speed.

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### Central Subway, San Francisco

A new 1.7-mile portion of mass transit in San Francisco comes mostly underground. The \$1.58 billion Central Subway project will extend the Muni Metro T Third Line through SoMa, Union Square, and Chinatown by traveling underground and bypassing heavy

traffic on surface streets. Four new stations come with the fresh rail, currently in the heart of construction and scheduled for service starting in 2019. A new 1.7-mile portion of mass transit in San Francisco comes mostly underground.



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### Seattle

A 1.7-mile-long bored tunnel under downtown Seattle finally wrapped up mining in 2017 and now crews work toward building a double-deck roadway in 2018 to replace the aging Alaskan Way Viaduct, scheduled for demolition. Using, at the time, the world's largest tunnel-boring machine at 57.5-feet in diameter to dig the tunnel, traffic on the \$3.1 billion project now has an early 2019 opening date—a few years behind schedule—that looks promising.

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**Mike Bishop. FConstM. Editor  
Overseas Secretary Governor  
01962 713000 [bishop1ue@btinternet.com](mailto:bishop1ue@btinternet.com)**

