



Planen und Bauen in Projektallianzen Planifier et construire en alliances de projet Progettare e costruire in alleanze di progetto

Design and construction in project alliances



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PREAMBLE

Construction is part of a society's cultural accomplishments. Our building culture not only encompasses the structural quality of the finished building but also the manner in which the building was designed and realised.

The history of Swiss construction includes many examples of buildings that have been realised by people working together harmoniously, i.e. cooperatively. However, there are also examples of confrontational project delivery. The increasing complexity of construction projects, the digitalisation of the construction industry and the skilled labour shortage call for new partnership-based models. By involving all key project partners at an early stage and aligning their interests with the project objectives, project implementation can be made more efficient and effective.

Experience of such models has also been gained at an international level, triggering a search for solutions designed to eliminate potential confrontation and align the interests of project partners as closely as possible. Solutions have been found in various partnership models that are commonly employed in an international context.

However, it would not be appropriate to apply such models to the Swiss market directly because the Swiss construction industry and the legal parameters are not the same as in the Anglosphere (as an example), where such models have become fairly commonplace. Nevertheless, the proven basic principles from these models can and should be applied.

Partnership-based models of collaboration in the construction industry involve arrangements that are not fully covered by the Swiss Code of Obligations or the SIA's body of standards.

By publishing the technical bulletin SIA 2065, the SIA seeks to create a practical application guide tailored to the Swiss market that will make it easier to adopt partnership models – in cases where this is both advisable and beneficial. A partnership-based contract is means to maintaining a culture of collaboration characterised by a high degree of reciprocal exclusion of liability, joint risk assumption, joint decision-making by all alliance partners and performance-based remuneration.

Accordingly, this technical bulletin describes the terminology and core components of a partnership model suited to use in the Swiss construction industry. It identifies the core elements to be regulated contractually in the associated alliance contract and sets out the parameters for relevant contractual agreements and – where possible – clear recommendations on implementation.

The technical bulletin is intended for use in situations where a partnership-based collaboration model is being considered. In light of relevant international experience, this primarily applies in the case of complex and/or medium to large-scale projects.

The recommendations of the technical bulletin are aimed at involving the contractors at an early stage, although the conclusion of an alliance contract solely for the execution phase may be beneficial in certain cases. The technical bulletin allows for such a scenario as well.

Before a project owner decides to take the alliance route, they must meticulously check whether their project idea is suitable for such an approach.

In view of the experience gained from the current version of technical bulletin SIA 2065, this one will need updating after some initial practical experience has been obtained so that an appropriate contractual standard can ultimately be developed based on the proven practices recorded up to that point.

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Swiss Conference of Directors of Construction, Planning and Environment
Design Build Switzerland
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