▷ CMPIC (Configuration Managed Project Integrated Cabling) is a sophisticated application for the management of cables. Covering all aspects of cabling from design through to testing, CMPIC is used by a number of very large UK and European companies. In its previous version, ICEPIC, which has been in use since 1996 the software has been used on projects to automatically route and manage over 30,000 cables.

DESIGN MODULES

▷ NODAL NETWORK CREATION

Using CMPIC's Nodal Network Creation Module, you can enter data directly, or import it from the CAD system - with each element given relevant attributes such as co-ordinate and segment type. You can also specify other design rules including 'prohibited nodes', 'preferred nodes' and 'hot areas'. These functions allow users to limit the routing possibilities for particular cable types or specific cables.

CMPIC's Nodal Network Creation Module provides for creation of the network and allocation of single or multiple segregations. When routing, the percentage and weight fills on the network are monitored.

▷ CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT

The optional Configuration Management features enable amendments to be made to the cabling design without the costs and potential errors that duplication of information can cause. Another advantage is that you can hold one 'master' design and several variants at the same time.

▷ DEVICE SCHEDULING

CMPIC's Device Schedule holds information about device type, location, and distance from the nodal network, number and types of terminals and type of entry. This information can be very basic to start with and expanded upon as details become available.

▷ CABLE SCHEDULING

The Cable Schedule holds information on cable numbers, usage, segregation class, type, nodes, cable type and connections. To create a schedule, all you need is basic information on the cable number, adding detail as it becomes available. The status of routing, terminating and installation are also recorded.

▷ ROUTING

CMPIC supports both manual and automatic routing with or without a CAD interface. So you can decide how best to use the software to support your project.

You can route cables manually or automatically on the database or you can also route cables using your CAD system interfaced to CMPIC. CMPIC rejects routes that would form a loop. Estimated and design lengths can both be recorded at this stage. Installed length can be input as part of the installation procedure. Once you have selected a route it can then be viewed in the CAD model.

When routing automatically CMPIC identifies the shortest route possible. You then accept or reject the offered route which can then be highlighted in the CAD drawing. Automatic routing is available for single cables or batches and CMPIC takes into account segregation classes and other restrictions such as prohibited nodes, full segments or hot areas.

▷ CHANGE MANAGEMENT (CABLE ROUTE APPROVAL)

CMPIC ensures that cable routes are approved before permission is given for installation. Before approval, the design team can still make changes. Afterwards, all modifications are subject to a change control process. Cable schedules are automatically updated. Cabling status is clearly shown through more than 20 different routing and terminating designations.
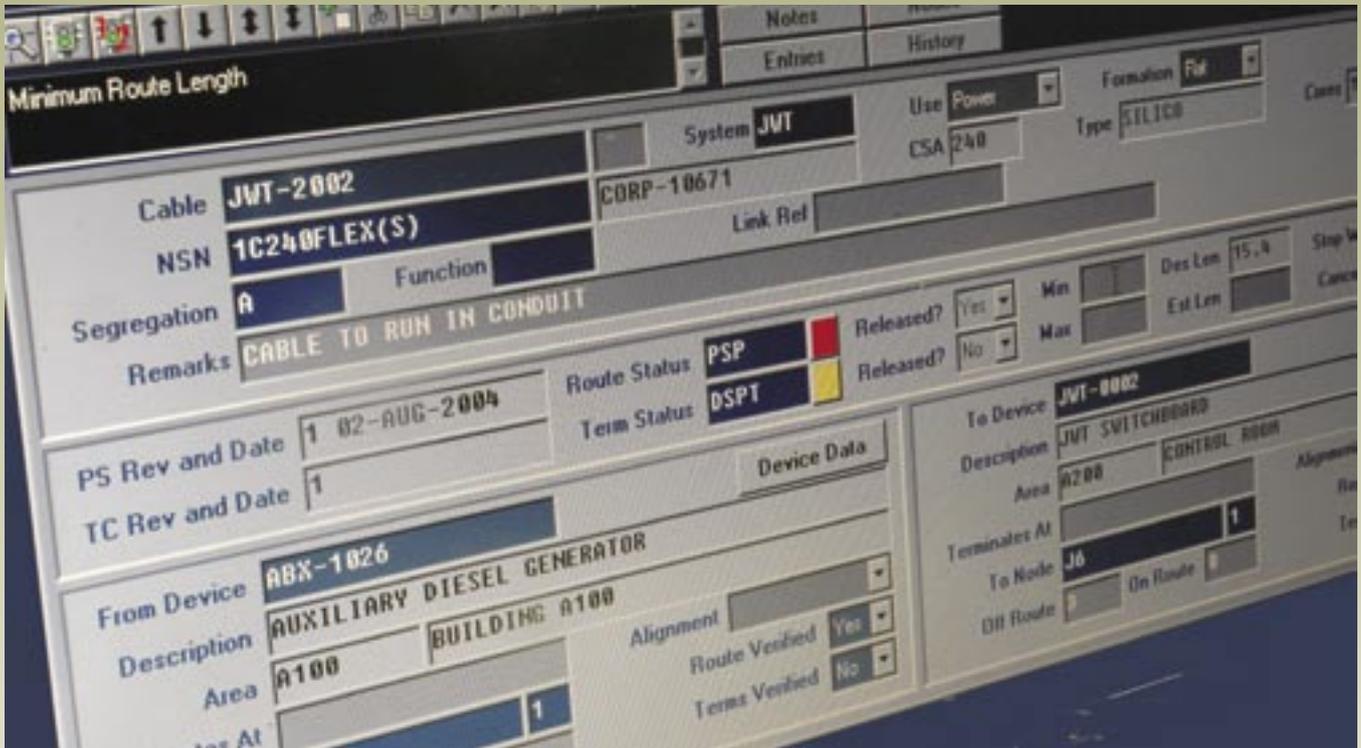
TERMINATIONS

CMPIC holds comprehensive information on cables in its Libraries and matches these against the terminals specified in the Device Schedule. Once design is complete, you can produce a termination report to aid installation.

Full integrity checking ensures only the specified cores are terminated. A record of any 'free issue' cables gives you a complete picture of the installation and terminating requirements for a device. The installer can use the termination report to record the date of installation, any off-cut lengths and who carried out the work.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT (TERMINATION APPROVAL)

You can see the status of all cable terminations at any time using CMPIC's Change Management module. You can also speed up the approval process by viewing approvals by device rather than by cable. As with routing, the design team can still make changes before approval. Afterwards, all modifications are subject to a change control process.

STANDARD REPORTS

CMPIC has a large number of standard reports and screen queries that provide information at a summary and detailed level. Double click functions enable you to 'drill down' to more detailed information, providing quick, easy access to the information held in CMPIC.

VISIO INTERFACE

CMPIC has a standard interface to Microsoft's Visio software. Cable connectivity diagrams in Visio can be used to input cable and device details to CMPIC. Diagrams can also be created directly from the CMPIC database as an output.

READ ONLY INTERFACE

CMPIC has a read only web-enabled version of its user interface which has a Windows look and feel. It is a very approachable way to see data about cables and associated devices for people who are infrequent or perhaps management users.

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