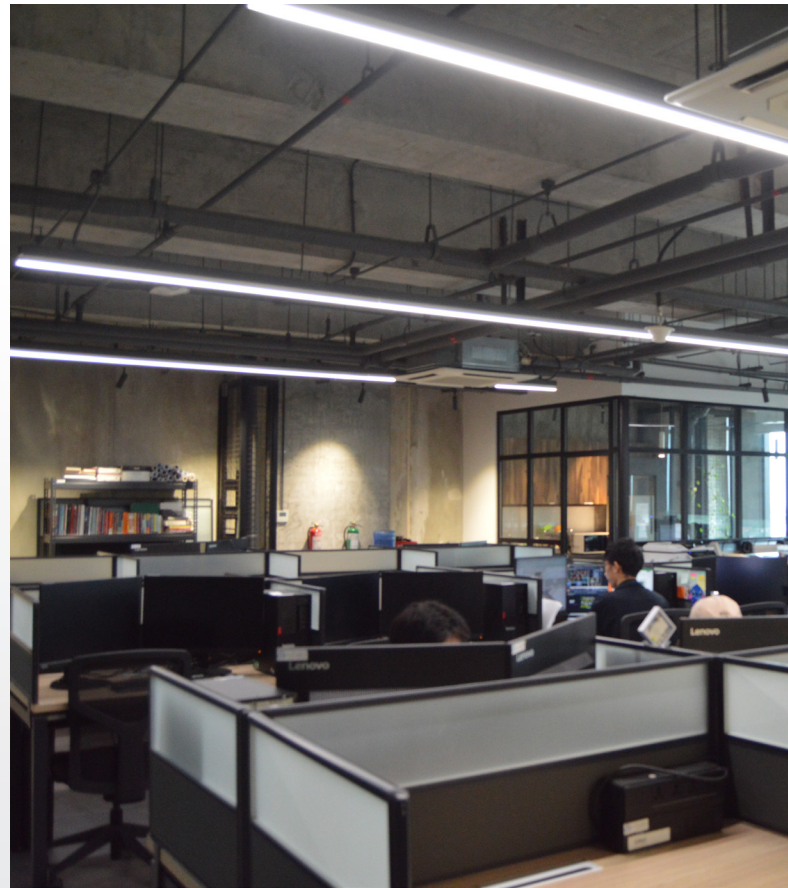




Silverdab Corporation's journey in BIM is a remarkable tale of innovation, adaptability, and unwavering dedication to advancing BIM and construction best practices.



Silverdab Corporation is a leading Building Information Modelling (BIM) consulting firm committed to collaboration and innovation. They offer a wide range of BIM services with making side-by-side inroads into the BIM Authoring and BIM Management field.

Silverdab Corporation is the first ISO 19650 BIM Kitemark certified by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in the Philippines. Silverdab Corporation's journey in BIM is a testament to the growing significance of BIM in the construction industry. As they expand their presence globally, they are not only contributing to the growth of BIM but also setting new standards for companies in the industry.

Their partnership with Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd. (OCG) and BSI, along with their dedication to excellence and towards achieving international recognition, illustrate the power of innovation and determination in transforming an entire industry.

BIM stands as a pivotal advancement in the realm of construction and design, redefining the way projects are conceptualized, developed, and managed. As the industry seeks smarter, more efficient methods, BIM emerges as an indispensable tool that not only improves project outcomes but also paves the way for a more interconnected and intelligent future in construction and infrastructure development.

Find out more at [bsigroup.com](https://www.bsigroup.com)



Background

Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd. (OCG) which is a part of Oriental Consultants Holdings Co., Ltd (OC Global) is a leading, integrated engineering consulting firm committed to excellence, innovation and sustainability in Japan. In 2018, Mr. Jose Lorenzo Afable joined Oriental Consultants Global as the BIM Director of the Metro Manila Subway Project and created a company that focuses on BIM implementation.

The driving force behind this decision was the growing realization that BIM was the need of the hour, especially in large-scale projects like the Metro Manila Subway Project. Surprisingly, there were no BIM requirements for designers in such projects at that time, only for contractors, making it challenging to bridge the gap between design and construction.

OCG recognized the need for a company that could supply BIM services for projects, primarily to mitigate risks and uncertainties. Mr. Afable, as the project manager then, undertook the task of bridging the gaps, implementing BIM during the design and construction phases. However, the key challenge was the absence of BIM standards or guidelines for designers. Mr. Afable was determined to fill this void and promised to develop a solution to meet this growing demand.

With Mr. Afable's determination, in June 2019, Silverdab Corporation was established with the vision to provide BIM support services to construction projects. A core tenet of the company's mission involves presenting innovative remedies and fostering an inclusive and trustworthy stakeholder community. The company's success story began to unfold with the commencement of multiple significant projects.





One of Silverdab Corporation's major milestones came when they were approached to work on the North South Commuter Rail (NSCR) project. This ambitious project involved connecting Tutuban to Bulacan, Bulacan to Clark, and Tutuban to Laguna, in the Philippines, and it was significantly larger than their previous undertaking. Silverdab was requested to take on the BIM aspect of the project due to their growing reputation and expertise. This led to a significant expansion of their office space and staff.

In May 2023, Japan announced its plan to mandate the use of BIM for all civil infrastructure projects. This news created an enormous opportunity for BIM companies, like Silverdab Corporation.

At the same time, OCG was also expanding its business outside of Japan and was focusing on expanding their operations in the Philippines and India. At that point, Silverdab was in the process of having a business partnership with OCG. The key driver behind OCG's interest in Silverdab is their BIM certification, a testament to their competency in the field. The certification gives them a mandate to take on BIM-related projects and has played a pivotal role in their journey to expansion.

With OCG onboard and emerging international opportunities, the Silverdab team partnered with BSI to establish an immensely reputable and enduring brand presence. With BSI's partnership and support, Silverdab has in February 2023 achieved certification for the BSI Kitemark for ISO 19650, the internationally recognized standard for BIM. BSI's collaboration continues, guiding Silverdab Corporation along its journey to secure additional industry-standard international certifications.

Client challenges

Silverdab faces various challenges both internally and externally, as they pilot projects with OCG, due to the diversification of projects in various countries, and the critical role of standards in the construction industry. Silverdab Corporation's portfolio is expanding beyond the Philippines. With projects in Thailand, India, Mongolia, and even discussions with a few Korean companies, the company is venturing into international territory. This expansion was driven by the increasing recognition of Silverdab Corporation's BIM expertise.

According to Mr. Jose Lorenzo Afable, the President at Silverdab Corporation and BIM Director at Oriental Consultants Global, BIM will be increasingly adopted worldwide. In countries like Japan, BIM will soon to be mandated for all civil infrastructure projects. In the Philippines, there is an ongoing effort to promote BIM by the government. The challenge lies in convincing government officials, educating them about BIM, and demonstrating the substantial benefits it offers in terms of efficiency and cost savings.

International expansion aside, Mr. Afable recognized a chance for Silverdab Corporation to offer localized BIM services. Yet, he needed something more to solidify the brand's credibility, which was essential to strengthening Silverdab Corporation's reputation in the eyes of stakeholders. He knew the importance of BIM and adhering to a standard that guarantees performance and excellence. The ultimate objective was to attain an internationally recognized certification. However, the difficulty lies in the process to establish oneself as a noteworthy company to persuade a wider audience.

The main challenges encountered during the certification process

Lack of understanding among employees:

A major challenge was that most of its employees did not understand the BSI Kitemark standards. The company has partnered with BSI and invested time and effort in explaining and training employees on the standards. This was particularly challenging as employees needed to comprehend the standards and see the importance of compliance.

Language and terminology: Language barriers and specific terminology used in the standards posed challenges. Some English terms might not have been clear to the employees, which added complexity to the certification process. Translating the language of the standards into terms that the employees of all levels could grasp and apply was necessary. BSI has the expertise to support Silverdab Corporation in this area with its experienced local tutors.

Training and monitoring: Training the employees on the correct processes and ensuring that they adhered to the standards was a challenge. The company had to provide training and ongoing monitoring to make sure everyone followed the prescribed processes. BSI was able to tailor to the needs of employees of all levels.

Resisting change: Initially, employees were not enthusiastic about the additional work and changes that the certification process brought. They had to adapt to new methods and digital tools, which they perceived as burdensome.

Client accountability: The company realized that implementing standards like ISO 9001 and 14001 not only benefited internal processes but also improved external accountability. Clients started to see the advantages of the certification standards as well. BSI continues its engagement with Silverdab Corporation for these standards.

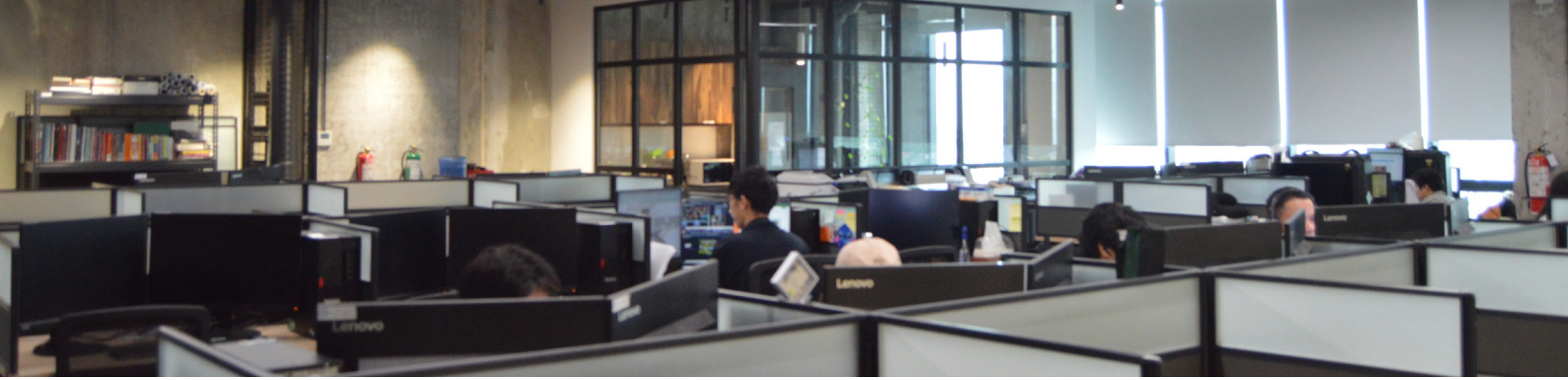
Tangible benefits measurement: The company had to develop ways to measure and quantify the tangible benefits of certification, such as improvements in speed, safety, and sustainability. This required collecting and analysing data related to these aspects. BSI worked closely with Silverdab Corporation's management on measuring and communicating the benefits.

External adoption challenges: The challenge of getting other companies and industry leaders to adopt these standards, especially in the absence of mandates. The need for industry-wide adoption was emphasized to make BIM and digitalization more widespread in the Philippines. The importance of educating industry leaders and authorities about the benefits and necessity of BIM and digitalization was underscored.

Complexity of integrating various digital tools: The company was in the process of integrating various digital tools and software for various aspects of the construction process, including requirements management and risk management. Coordinating these tools and ensuring they worked seamlessly was a challenge. BSI has the framework to support Silverdab Corporation in this aspect.

Law and legal issues: Legal matters and the potential for lawsuits were highlighted as motivating factors for companies to adhere to BSI Kitemark standards. The legal implications of non-compliance could be significant in ensuring adherence to these standards.





Partnership with BSI

Due to limited awareness and knowledge among its employees, Silverdab Corporation's quest extends beyond BIM mandates. It involves a relentless pursuit of educating and promoting the use of international standards to all its employees. These standards can guide the industry in efficient practices and bridge the gaps between different stakeholders. Silverdab Corporation's endeavour is to make standards accessible and practical, so they cease to be seen as mere "plain white text", but as tools that improve the construction process. Silverdab is not just advocating for BIM but also working to revolutionize construction practices in the Philippines and beyond.

To address Silverdab Corporation's challenges, BSI helped from identifying gaps for

improvement to delivering enterprise-side training programs to all levels of its employees - to enable all employees to comprehend and implement the standards within their operations.

With BSI on board, Silverdab Corporation was also able to embed more external learning experiences for its employees and the local industry players, such as partnering to organize seminars and webinars to share international best practices, to fast-track the adoption of BIM and digitalization in the Philippines. BSI was supporting the awareness creation for BIM via participation in major built environment events in the Philippines. Silverdab Corporation and BSI were also planning to create educational videos or animations to explain concepts like BIM, ISO standards, and digital engineering to make them more accessible to a broader audience.



“The core objectives of Silverdab are to present innovative remedies and fostering an inclusive and trustworthy stakeholder community in the Built Environment sector in the Philippines. We believe BSI is a strategic partner with an international recognition, this is why we partnered with BSI, to help us and guide us to achieve our objectives.

Being digital has to complement with sustainability — giving efficient mass transportation is supporting sustainability. It's all connected. We aspire to give Filipinos the best life experience that they can have.”

Jose Lorenzo Afable,
President at Silverdab Corporation
BIM Director at Oriental Consultants Global



The accreditation from BSI elevated the Silverdab Corporation’s standing, augmenting its credibility as a BIM enterprise. The accreditation from BSI not only uplifted employee morale by bestowing a badge of pride but also expedited processes among the employees and clarified internal roles and responsibilities, leading to enhanced efficiency.

Silverdab Corporation’s journey is far from over. Mr. Afable shared that they are currently piloting a project with OCG, using a different Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) than their previous project, MMSE. This diversification is a testament to Silverdab Corporation’s adaptability and their commitment to staying at the forefront of BIM technology.

Silverdab Corporation’s journey is a remarkable tale of innovation, adaptability,

and unwavering dedication to advancing BIM and construction practices. Their commitment to international standards, working closely with BSI and their involvement in international projects have driven their advocacy for BIM mandates and exemplified their pivotal role in transforming the construction industry in the Philippines and beyond. With passionate individuals like Mr. Jose Lorenzo Afable being the leader of Silverdab Corporation, Mr. Afable and his team continues to shape the future of construction in the Philippines and in all the international projects in which they are engaged. BSI is committed to supporting and partnering Silverdab Corporation in this meaningful journey.



Why BSI?

Jose Lorenzo Afable comments: “BSI is our partner to help us manage the company's operations. It gave us the foundation that we need to attain our goals and success.”