Are You Ready for the Digital Transformation of the Construction Industry?

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Connecting People with Data to Revolutionize Project Management

Connecting People with Data to Revolutionize Project Management for the Construction Industry

The digital transformation of business is changing the way every industry operates. The construction industry, always challenged with communications between the office and the field, is no different. The combination of centralized information and connected devices can empower employees in the field to make the informed, proactive decisions that avert costly mistakes and build customer confidence.

Forward-looking construction companies are revolutionizing their businesses, putting information in the hands of their people—no matter where they are working. Providing KPI dashboard views, as well as access to documents and project details through mobile devices, employees have information when and where it's needed. Through connected systems, employees enter information in real time, wherever they are, instead of traipsing back to the office.

We've written this eBook to help you understand and participate in the digital revolution that could give your organization real competitive edge. We'll explain, in simple terms, how you can implement a unified business management system that will improve the quality of work life for your employees, contractors and customers. And, we'll show you how to control costs and manage projects with fewer resources at the same time.

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Mobile technology connects people with projects

In the construction business, employees are just as likely to be working on the project site or at a hotel as they are to be working in the office. They need access to current, complete project information through their phones, laptops and tablets.

Productivity in a mobile world

With today's collaborative business management tools, like Microsoft's Dynamics 365, employees, contractors and customers can focus more time on the project and less time on paperwork and phone calls searching for answers. All the information they need can be delivered to their mobile device.

With centralized data, accessed through familiar productivity tools, like Office 365, consultants, contractors and clients can have secure access to:

- A comprehensive view of project documents, budgets, deliverables and status.
- Simplified document workflow management, accelerating RFP and RFQ responses.
- Continuous tracking of Change Order, Submittals and Transmittals so details don't fall through the cracks.
- Electronic workflow approvals to increase the speed of play
- Faster notifications or alerts when things go wrong.

A dispersed workforce doesn't need to be a challenge to coordinate and manage. With centralized customer and project data and connected business processes, your employees can operate just as efficiently in the field as they can in the office.

Impact on profits

By making project-related information available to employees through mobile devices, you can:

- Accelerate billing with employees entering time from the field.
- Support data-driven decisions no matter where employees are working.
- Connect field employees to experts and contractors while they are onsite.

Manage schedules across projects, people and assets

Coordination across a complex matrix of projects, people and assets is business as usual for construction companies. Spreadsheets may be a step up from paper but as your company grows, taking on bigger and more projects, they can't keep pace.

Automate to optimize resource

When systems are all connected, you can capitalize on the data from across the organization, applying rules to automate the scheduling process. With Microsoft Dynamics 365 business management solutions, you can:

- Use the drag-and-drop schedule board to assign resources and set up schedules across projects and departments.
- Identify and organize available resources by several categories to intelligently balance workloads and resources.
- Coordinate schedules across employees, teams, contractors and assets.
- Respond to problem areas by tapping into resources with availability.

With full access to information through mobile devices, project managers and participants can respond to scheduling changes immediately—no matter where they are working.

Impact on profits

Improve profitability by optimizing schedules of employees, contractors and assets to:

- Improve utilization of expensive assets.
- Prioritize highest value customers.
- Free managers to spend less time scheduling and more time with clients.

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Streamline and accelerate the bidding process

As your organization grows, both the importance and complexity of estimating and bidding increases. Project leadership needs to make quick decisions to keep employees focused on the most profitable work. More people need to contribute to and review RFPs, RFIs and RFQs.

Focus on the projects that fit

To reduce the time and risks of the competitive estimate and bid process, you need to build on the insights from past projects. By centralizing the information from past and current projects, you can make more accurate estimates and focus on the jobs that deliver the most profit.

With connected information through Microsoft Dynamics 365, your organization can use centralized data to improve your estimating and bidding process to:
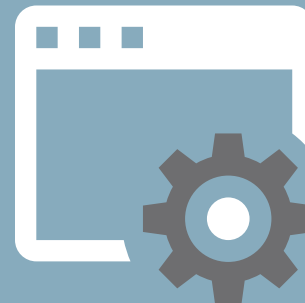
- Enhance project team collaboration on responses with workflow and centralized documents.
- Use current and past project data to refine estimates.
- Automate workflows for contribution, review and approval to accelerate RFP and RFQ responses.
- Track open bids as well as win/loss information.
- Continuously track and monitor change orders, submittals and transmittals so details don't fall through the cracks.

Through mobile connectivity, employees can contribute to and review documents no matter where they are, avoiding delays and bottlenecks.

Impact on profits

With connected information, you can improve the bidding process to:

- Bid on the most profitable projects.
- Respond with full confidence in document version control.
- Ensure the experts in your organization can provide timely input and review.

Improve document process flow and controls

From RFPs to blueprints to invoices, documents have always been the lifeblood of projects. Breaking through the limitations of paper, the digital age allows construction companies to reinvent their document management processes. Control is the key.

Like having the office in the field

By allowing your project teams to access and share documents on devices in the field, you can improve productivity and help avoid costly mistakes. Through business management tools like Microsoft Dynamics 365, you can provide access with strict controls in place. With digital document management, you can:

- Provide secure access to project documents for employees, contractors and clients.
- Automate workflows for approvals and distribution of documents, like reviews, blueprints, change orders and transmittals.
- Establish standard document templates, reports and forms to help ensure consistency across teams and departments.
- Use workspaces that provide a central place to manage project documents and tasks.

Powerful, easy-to-use, mobile-ready Office 365 productivity tools combine with Microsoft Dynamics 365 to simplify document management and control.

Impact on profits

With centralized document management and access from the field, your team can:

- Capture signatures in the field to accelerate billing and milestone approvals.
- Collect faster with fully detailed invoices.
- Provide decision support on the jobsite.

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Put real-time dashboards in managers' hands

For most construction companies today, project managers spend too much time reacting to the unexpected. The information that could allow them to be proactive is spread across disconnected applications. Getting a complete picture to avoid scheduling conflicts or project oversights is impossible.

Focus on what's important with dashboards

With business intelligence, designed for construction companies, you can use dashboards to provide real-time, consolidated project information that supports predictive and proactive decisions.

High-level visibility into KPIs, with the ability to drill-down into the details, allows managers to avoid issues and keep employees and contractors more productive through:

- Accurate project costing and budgeting to avoid surprises.
- Daily visibility into Estimate at Complete (EAC) to better forecast your projects.
- Performance tracking with interactive graphical scorecards and dashboards.
- Predictive analysis to learn from past performance and support forward-looking decisions.

By putting the at-a-glance business intelligence in managers' hands, they can monitor multiple projects, anticipating challenges and making proactive decisions. Delivered through mobile devices, dashboards provide real-time and offline visibility to keep managers connected everywhere.

Impact on profits

Improve project execution by giving managers connected information to:

- Access accurate forecasts that avoid cost overruns and schedule delays.
- Hold contractors accountable to milestones and timelines.
- Solve challenges before they impact the project.

Focus on your business, not the technology

To keep up with technology advances, most construction companies have cobbled together multiple systems that track different aspects of the business. IT teams spend too much time responding to problems instead of helping you use technology strategically.

Strategic advantage without IT headaches

Through cloud-based applications, like Microsoft Dynamics 365, you always have the most current capabilities keeping pace with modern business practices and customer expectations. Taking the headaches of IT off the business while delivering the latest benefits that technology has to offer, the cloud allows you to:

- Keep employees productive, giving them access to the information anywhere.
- Ensure the security of your data and support business continuity in the face of disaster.
- Eliminate up-front investment of on-premises systems, system upgrades and downtime from upgrades.
- Easily and inexpensively scale the system as your business grows.

With cloud-based business management systems, you can take advantage of the latest technology to drive productivity and project success.

Impact on profits

By using cloud-based business systems, you get the best of technology—without the headaches—to:

- Manage access to information and documents with user, group and role-based security.
- Respond to changing industry trends and meet customer expectations.
- Give millennials the tools they expect in the modern workplace.

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Solutions engineered for project-based performance

As a project-based firm, your business has complex needs. Employees with varied skill sets and positions—working at multiple constructions sites—all need information to do their jobs. External parties, like clients, need different types of information and communication.

At Stoneridge Software, we understand you need to simplify processes and systems that foster collaboration and support ever-changing operational and market needs. Whether you are one company with many projects or multiple companies that operate under one umbrella, Microsoft Dynamics 365 has been designed to help manage complex projects and meet your specific enterprise needs.

Collaboration, agility and visibility are key factors to staying competitive in the construction industry. Don't let inflexible and segmented software solutions keep you from rising above. Let us help you connect the people and information in your company to build project profitability.

Contact us at 612-354-4966 or solutions@stoneridgesoftware.com to schedule a one-on-one consultation or your complimentary Process Mapping Analysis session.

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Process Mapping Analysis

Do you have a good idea what the scope of your project might look like? To help you get started, we'll provide a complimentary 2-hour Process Mapping Analysis session held with Stoneridge project experts. Your session will include a sample process catalogue and discussion of mapping requirements. We'll explain business process modeling, how to collect and organize requirements and use cases...and how it all fits together to make your ERP implementation easier.

With a small investment of your time, you will get:

- A business process catalogue, curated by category and common tasks.
- Recommendations to get your processes ready for an ERP implementation.
- Ideas and tools for managing and mapping requirements to processes.
- Recommendations for organizing your teams to make decisions quickly during an implementation.

Click for more information or to schedule your analysis or call 612-354-4966

*Qualifications and restrictions may apply.