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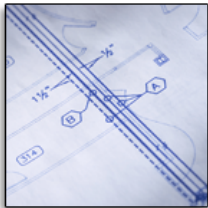
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Building an Integrated Estimate

August 31, 2010

According to a recent survey of *Constructech* readers, 43% believe digital takeoff technology will have a great impact on the industry in the next five years. Estimating and takeoff software continue to remain at the forefront of technology investments for a number of reasons

including greater project accuracy.

More and more, contractors are finding digital takeoff technology integrated with the estimate can help eliminate the time-consuming process of entering data multiple times—and some construction companies are even seeking out this kind of integration today.

To help, providers are coming to market with more integrated solutions. Take for example, new integration developed by On Center Software, www.oncenter.com, The Woodlands, Texas, and WinEstimator, www.winest.com, Kent, Wash.

The two technology providers have been **business partners** for quite some time. Now,

the companies are coming to market with integration between On Center's On-Screen Takeoff and WinEst's estimating program.

According to Leonard Buzz, CEO, On Center Software, this integration gives contractors the ability to access electronic plans and specs from many sources, while also viewing color-coded quantity takeoff with the cost estimate.

The integration will give WinEst users access to On Center's On-Screen Takeoff, allowing for faster and more efficient estimating. Steve Watt, president and CEO, WinEstimator, says the integration was developed based on a need for more efficiency for estimators.

This is just one recent example of new integration capabilities with the estimate. In

recent weeks, MC², www.mc2-ice.com, Memphis, Tenn., and Tech Unlimited Inc., www.planswift.com, Henderson, N.V., began a partnership to integrate quantity takeoff in the PlanSwift system with estimating software from MC². Other **estimating** providers in the industry have also been developing other partner programs and new products.

The estimate seems to be a hot bed of activity in the construction

technology industry in recent weeks. It might be a good idea to keep an eye on who is partnering up and developing integrated products, as these advances will help contractors improve accuracy for years to come.

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