

CONSTRUCTECH

TOP '11 PRODUCTS



ENABLING HIGH-PERFORMANCE CONSTRUCTION

ELIMINATE THE HIGH-WIRE ACT BY USING THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY.

BY CONSTRUCTECH STAFF

When it comes to managing technology, would you classify your company as being high performance or high wire? While many firms would like to believe they are achieving a level of high performance, in many cases these companies feel more like they are running a high-wire act instead, trying to strike a delicate balance of efficiency and cost.

This idea of high performance is one recently examined by Accenture, www.accenture.com, New York, N.Y., when the market research and consulting firm spoke out about turning your IT department into one that is a “high-performing IT department.” Accenture characterized these firms as those that hit the ground running following the recent economic downturn. Whereas some companies simply stayed put with their IT efforts during the downturn, those defined as being of “high performance”

instead used the time to drive more business value from IT, seeing technology as being a growth engine.

While the study done by Accenture was not construction-specific, many of the themes hold true for this industry and what it takes to survive. For example, firms considered to be “high performing” by Accenture exhibited an ability to successfully retire legacy systems and embrace new technologies; Web-enable interactions with customers and suppliers; recognize the strategic role IT plays in increasing customer satisfaction; measure benefits realized from IT initiatives; and develop and implement new initiatives, rather than maintaining existing ones.

There is a definite correlation between the themes cited by Accenture and those exhibited today by those construction companies considered to be tech-savvy. A

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look at the ways in which this industry has progressed in recent years shows many companies are definitely on the road to high performance.

Take the trend of retiring legacy systems and embracing new technologies as one example. In some ways this has become more of a common theme as companies begin to realize the limitations under which they are working by using older, outdated systems. Couple this with software providers working with newer technologies, including Microsoft .NET or SQL Server, to name a few, and what you have is a market realizing what a difference technology can make in the long run. Quite frankly, this leaves some software vendors out in the cold as they have not evolved their systems in order to keep up with the change in requirements.

Also, the ability to Web-enable interactions with customers and suppliers is another theme that resonates well in construction. While it is true this has been happening in construction for some time now, given the new advancements in collaborative technologies, collaborative efforts are being taken to heights never before seen in this market.

Overall, the theme, cited by Accenture, of implementing new initiatives rather than simply maintaining existing ones is one to examine closely in construction. Recent data compiled by *Constructech* reveals roughly 41% of construction companies believe there is real value in expending IT efforts in both. In other words, these firms are both investing in new technology initiatives as well as maintaining current ones.

Quite simply, that last theme is one that needs to continue in order for construction companies to advance technology initiatives going forward. While investing in new technology is a smart strategy, if done with due diligence, the ability to continually refine the systems and services already in place is what will ensure you are making the most of your IT investment.

When judging this year's nominees for Top Products, *Constructech* editors used a more discerning eye than ever before. Products that we believed did not display a certain level of enhancement to meet the changing needs of the market simply did not make the cut this year. Many companies nominated products in which very little enhancements were made.

The bar for construction technology has been raised. This year's Top Products winners exhibit the ability to match these heightened expectations, and in the process take your firm to a level of higher performance.

TRUSTED*	COMPANY	PRODUCT
	AboutTime Technologies	ControlCenter 3.0
	Accubid, a division of Trimble	Accubid Enterprise Estimating
	Bentley Systems Inc.	Navigator V8i (p22)
	CMiC	CMiC Open Enterprise v10 (p22)
	Computer Presentation Systems Inc.	SalesTouch
	ConEst Software Systems	IntelliBid (p23)
	Construction Imaging	Content Manager (p23)
	Corecon Technologies Inc.	Corecon V7 (p24)
	FASTTAC Inc.	FASTTAC Digital Drawing and Document Distribution System
	Healthcare Technical Services LLC	FreightTrain (p24)
	Innovaya LLC	Innovaya 4D/5D BIM Suite
	iSqFt	iSqFt 10
	Jonas Software	Jonas Paperless Service Management (p25)
	LoadSpring Solutions Inc.	SpringBoard Control Console
	Meridian Systems	Prolog (p26)
	On Center Software	Digital Production Control (p26)
	On Center Software	On-Screen Takeoff (p27)
	On Center Software	Quick Bid (p27)
	Project DocControl	Project DocControl
	Skire Inc.	Unifier
	Systemates Inc.	Projectmates (p28)
	TeleNav Inc.	TeleNav Track
	Viewpoint Construction Software	Viewpoint V6 Software (p28)
	WennSoft	Job Cost (p29)

NEW**	COMPANY	PRODUCT
	BuildSite	BuildSite Submittals
	Cram Group, The	The OBA Store
	Maxwell Systems	Maxwell Systems ProContractorMX (p25)
	NoteVault Inc.	NoteVault
	Vela Systems	Vela Field Management Suite
	Vision InfoSoft	Electrical Bid Manager Enterprise

* Trusted products include core technology offerings that have been in the market for at least three years and have been upgraded or enhanced.

** New products include technology applications that have been in the construction market for two years or less.



Folsom, Calif.
www.meridiansystems.com

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

PROLOG

With a greater focus on project control and transparency, more companies are using program and project-management technologies today. Meridian Systems' Prolog allows project-based organizations to manage construction, real estate, and other infrastructure projects, helping to reduce project risk, control costs, and provide transparency to all of the stakeholders involved in a construction project. The *Constructech* editors like Meridian's focus on Web services technology, which allows Prolog users to choose how they would like to access their project data. For example, a project executive can view reports via Microsoft Outlook while a project superintendent can view the data in Microsoft Excel. The company says it has plans for the year ahead to further leverage Web services for the purposes of integration and interoperability of Prolog with other technology solutions.



The Woodlands, Texas
www.oncenter.com

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

DIGITAL PRODUCTION CONTROL

Today more than ever, not knowing your labor costs can be a recipe for disaster. Digital Production Control takes an innovative approach to the process and has created a project-tracking program that integrates the estimating and takeoff process. Using this product, companies can digitally track labor production directly from the field to the office. *Constructech* applauds the usability built into the product, such as its color-coded spreadsheet that calls to attention labor production problems in realtime. This graphical alert helps spot potential setbacks of profit losses right away; hopefully helping them avoid costly overruns. Released in 2008, Digital Production Control has made quite an impact on controlling costs in construction.




On Center
SOFTWARE

The Woodlands, Texas
www.oncenter.com

DIGITAL TAKEOFF

ON-SCREEN TAKEOFF

In many ways, On Center's On-Screen Takeoff product has become synonymous with the digital-takeoff process in construction. Allowing estimators to view plans, PDFs, and CAD files onscreen, the product helps create a paperless takeoffs process. The adoption rate of digital-takeoff technology continues to grow and to many contractors, On-Screen Takeoff is the benchmark product. The latest update adds an overlay feature, which includes automatic resizing and aligning of overlay images, the ability to rotate overlay images independent of the base image, and a new overlay image de-skew function. The new enhancements just keep coming to a product that is a critical part of the estimating process in construction today.


On Center
SOFTWARE

The Woodlands, Texas
www.oncenter.com

BIDDING

QUICK BID

As On Center Software's flagship product, Quick Bid is a product that continues to get more and more useful in the construction industry each year. Let's talk about its time-saving ability; providing a digital alternative to using spreadsheets, the Quick Bid product automates bidding functions that are performed manually. This functionality alone can save contractors greatly in the current market conditions. *Constructech* likes the way construction companies can use the product in order to quickly adjust existing bids, and generate new bids using an online database and eQuote for material pricing and vendor quotes. The latest version of Quick Bid includes different accounting exports to ensure the efficiency created in this product carries over to financials too.

