

## YEAR in PROJECTS

## Architectural Face Lift for Canadian University Health Sciences Facilities

**R**enovations are underway at Canada's University of Saskatchewan, where project officials are expanding the Academic Health Science D-wing on Campus Drive for interdisciplinary biomedical-research purposes. The Graham Group, in charge of demolition and construction of the \$125-million venture, should complete the D-wing addition early next year.

Part of a larger Academic Health Science Project, the D-wing renovation is one of several wing overhauls scheduled to be completed within the next few years. Architects plan to incorporate contemporary designs within the project, such as modern glazing, arches and a fieldstone-laid exterior, to represent a modern version of Collegiate Gothic architecture. Once complete, the updated multidisciplinary facilities will meet the needs of academic health-sciences students, instructors and researchers. The D-wing, in particular, will accommodate biomedical research labs that utilize an open-lab/open-floor plan to foster collaboration.

The Graham Group is using On Center Software's On-Screen Takeoff® computer application to help maximize time and efficiency within the project's estimation process. The software allows users to perform takeoffs directly from their computers, reducing mistakes and bid time.

"On-Screen Takeoff has probably cut my quantity survey time in half or more, leaving me more time to focus on competitive edges and ensuring the completeness of our bids," says Andy Heiber, Graham's senior estimator.

Heiber is using On-Screen Takeoff® to complete the concrete features of the project. He noted that the software allowed him to finish the concrete takeoff with nearly no errors. In addition, the digital takeoff software automatically calculates equations and measurements, which reduces the need for double-checking work. "On-Screen Takeoff is starting to become a standard tool in our office," says Heiber.

The AHS project began in 2001 and has received a majority of its funding from the Government of Saskatchewan. ■





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