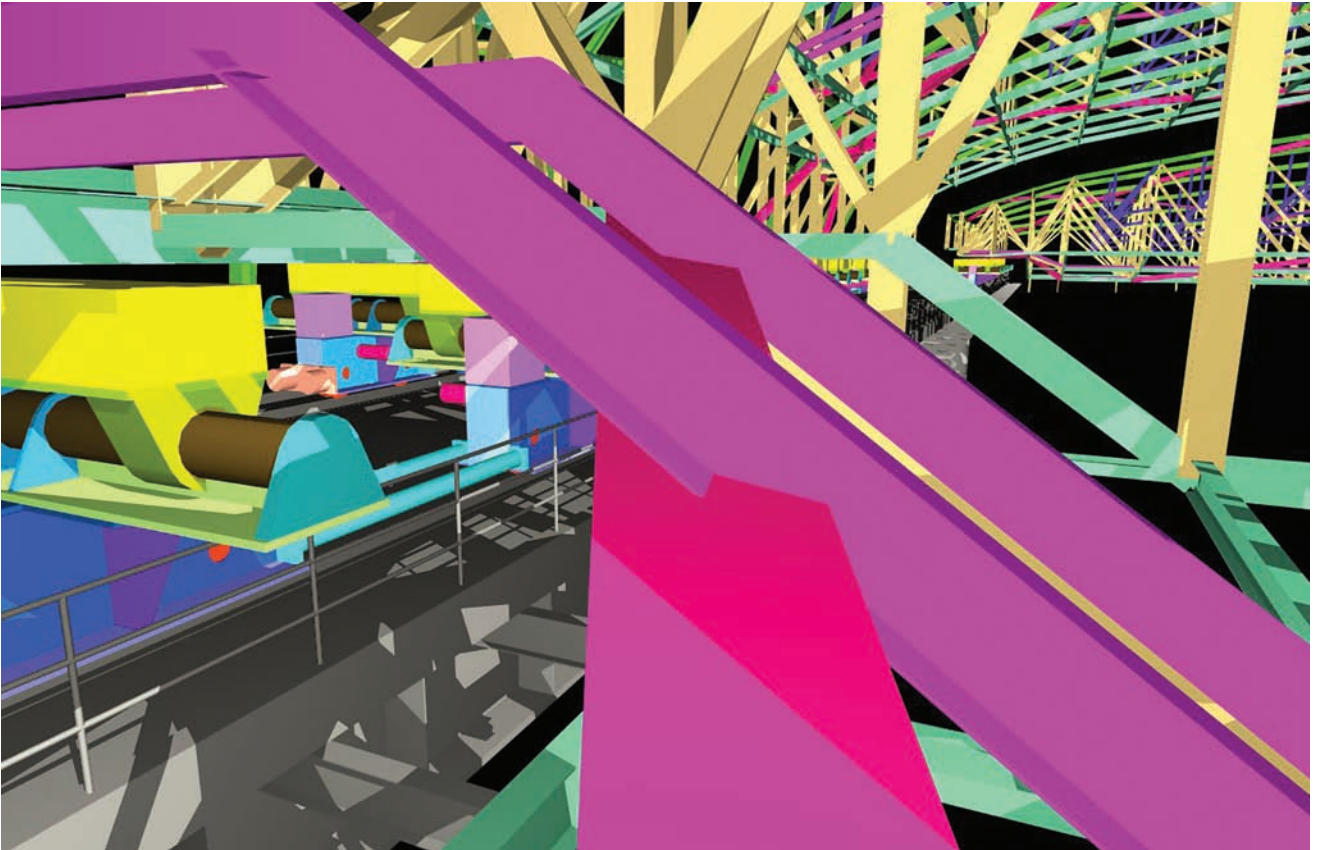


THE BUSINESS REALITY OF AN INTEROPERABLE WORLD



“TOMORROW IS NON-TRIVIAL IN WHAT WE CAN DO, WHAT WE CAN DIRECT, WHAT CAN WE SENSE AND WHAT WE CAN ACCRUE. TOMORROW WILL NOT TRULY COME UNLESS WE ACCEPT THIS GRAND CHALLENGE AND ATTACK IT USING ALL MEANS AND A SENSE OF URGENCY UNLIKE ANYTHING EVER DONE. IT’S TIME,” SAYS JOHN VOELLER, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY/CHIEF KNOWLEDGE OFFICER FOR BLACK & VEATCH.

VOELLER IS TALKING ABOUT THE ELUSIVE INTEROPERABILITY OF INFORMATION THAT MAKES UP THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION PROCESS, THE ABILITY TO MOVE DATA FROM DESIGN THROUGH CONSTRUCTION TO OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE. IN THE FOLLOWING, WE ASKED INDUSTRY EXPERTS, OWNERS, ARCHITECTS AND CONTRACTORS TO GIVE US THEIR PERSPECTIVE, TO TELL US WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOESN’T WORK AND WHAT THEY NEED TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN TODAY’S MARKET.

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ENR VIRTUAL CONSTRUCTION ROUNDTABLE *cont.*

things that you cheer it doing, there are five curses at the things it won't do...improved standards in interoperability will help.

LEE TURNER, Walton Construction

All of it. I want to see more BIM and evolving project collaboration. I'm excited about BIM and the possibility that it can encourage the "master builder" concept and create a synchronized environment for owner's, builders and designers.

SHAUN YANCEY, PCL

The ideal scenario would be to get the software providers to agree on a common platform. Until then, the published standards are a very significant piece of that interoperability puzzle. We are eagerly awaiting the National BIM standard, as well as the GSA BIM standard. We would also like to see more design involvement in BIM modeling, so that this can be a much more collaborative effort to design and construct projects, which is how we as an industry are going to deliver the best value to our clients.

KRISTINE FALLON, Kristine Fallon Assoc.

I'm concerned about the education of design and construction professionals, helping them understand the new skills

and overall mindset that go with the collaborative design-build relationship. We also need to adapt our accreditation and internship programs to properly train and mentor new professionals entering the industry. Of course, there's still work to be done on the technology, particularly interoperability.

ART STOUT, Intel

Interoperability is not an insurmountable issue. As an owner, we are convinced that technology will be our answer to improved productivity and diminishing manpower. It could change the way we run our business for the better.

However, there is the perception that the owner is the key driver in the adoption of interoperable tools, BIM, xD and beyond. I don't believe that. I think contractors can pull the owners into this information age a lot better than they think they can. They should be telling the owner that this is the way we do business better, faster and cheaper so that we all save or make more money. ■

This special ad section was written by Vicki Speed. She can be reached at 949-589-9995 or vickispeed1@cox.net

“Look strongly at hardware versatility. Palm-sized and Tablet PC technology allow for instant communication and sharing of ideas and issues in the construction workplace.”

—Greg Duyka, Sales Support Manager, OnCenter

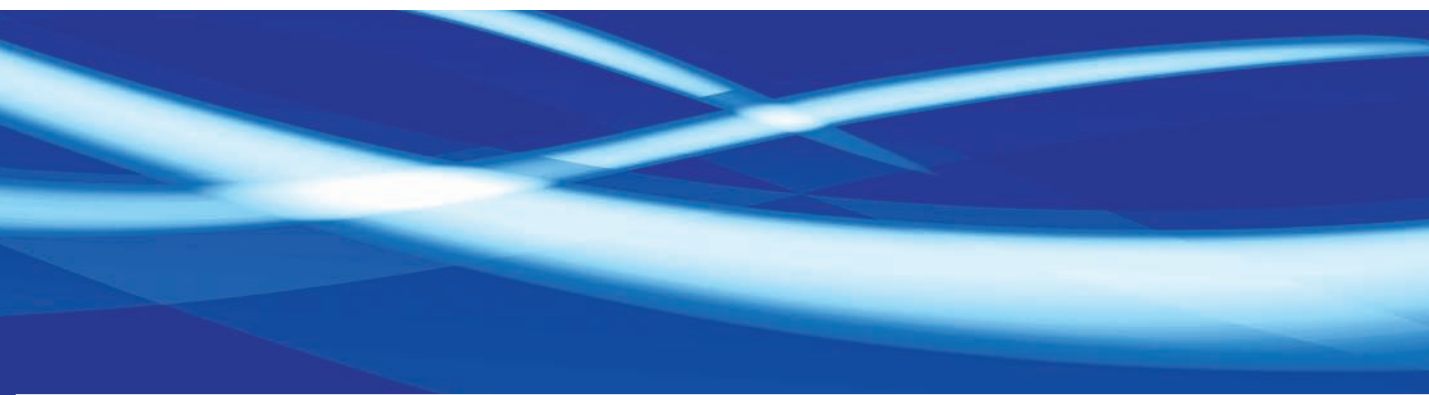


“Access to real-time information and interoperability stand out as the most pressing technology concerns. The use of Web, mobile and GPS technologies and open standard architectures is imperative in today's on-demand environment.”

—Balaji Sreenivasan, CEO, Aurigo

“One of the greatest challenges companies face is sharing data among core management systems. Microsoft's .NET platform provides an opportunity for companies like BID2WIN to create software that seamlessly moves data to and from those core systems.”

—Paul McKeon, President, BID2WIN Software



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TIME IS MONEY

Greg Duyka, Sales Manager, OnCenter

The old saying that “time is money” has for a long time been very true in the construction industry.

The complexity of projects today combined with rising costs of labor and materials can lead to large losses of profit if a decision to proceed on a project or change is delayed. The ability to quickly share critical information between all parties affected can make or break the profit margins on most jobs.

In the past, this information was often shared by phone, mail, couriers, and faxes. The potential for delays from missed messages, slow mail, and blurred faxes was very real.

Today, with the use of electronic plan files and e-mail, owners, architects, engineers, and contractors can be notified immediately of decisions on changes or job issues. Often these files can also contain colored quantity takeoff already shown on them. All participants in multiple loca-

tions can view and discuss the same documents, which speeds up the decision process. This allows the projects to stay on schedule, thus saving everyone “time and money.” ■

