

Construction

EXECUTIVE

2008

Hot Products

Innovative Products Showcase

BY DONALD BERRY

Industry manufacturers and suppliers play a vital role in the construction process. They design and produce the building materials, services and technology that contractors depend on to run their business. Please join us in saluting these companies as you read about their contributions to the construction industry in the pages that follow.





eCMS 3.7 Enables Construction Executives To Run Their Businesses With Greater Efficiency

Construction Management System					
Executive Summary Analysis					
Job Number	Sub Job	Description	Contract/ Billings	Budgeted Costs	Actual/ Committed
AA100		Forest Park	10,670,000 0	9,465,955	2,214 2,584
AA1646		Chickoche Center Reception/Diagnostic	11,094,778 8,781,871	10,382,367	8,428,073 1,294,738
A1646		Mathematics Center	8,655,518 0	9,107,664	8,191,857 3,950,000
A42292		Camelback Cr1 Shopping Mall	11,084,181 725,901	9,495,588	868,908 554,421
A42292	571	Camelback Court Interiors Rehab	11,501,250 75,000	9,575,955	70,931 725,136
A42292	33X	Camelback Plaza 2	10,335,061 487,315	9,879,204	21,368 1,899
A42292	999	Camelback Cr1 Extras	10,380,000 0	9,891,233	42,044 34,985
BB1646		Chickoche Pte 2	9,636,949 0	9,089,429	0 100,000
B12250		Benson Highway Improvements	2,240,247 132,586	2,051,487	120,424 765,530
B281		Aspark Haint Adh'n General Aviation	1,264,000 55,520	1,315,750	59,232 186,357
CAB001		Pro Center Car Wash	0 0	9,000	0 -9,000
C1120		Belize	23,100,000 4,663,000	22,909,840	4,278,142 2,214,173
C1646		11046 office	9,634,429 0	9,089,429	0 9,889,429
C2508		Stonewall Jackson Middle School	0 0	350,153	60,267 -390,345
D02		Alabama Central	728,750 579,500	789,000	515,817 13,250

The eCMS software suite from Computer Guidance features a browser-based interface with 30 unified applications to help construction businesses manage accounting, projects, personnel, operations and equipment. eCMS provides improved monitoring and analysis of financial and operating performance, with advanced

functions for tracking subcontractor performance, document compliance and contract management. The suite includes a comprehensive set of specialty applications and complimentary productivity tools such as document imaging, electronic workflow and electronic forms management. "The eCMS 3.7 system represents a new level of integration among our entire suite

of applications," says Roger Kirk, President/CEO, Computer Guidance Corporation. "This next-generation technology provides greater ease of use and functional enhancements that enable construction executives to run their businesses with greater efficiency — a critical consideration in this time of financial uncertainty and tighter profit margins."

tion as one example. "A price index database now calculates asphalt costs for a highway and heavy contractor based on the fluctuation of liquid asphalt prices. Metric conversions are done automatically to meet the requirements of federal and state agencies. Purchase orders can be generated directly from field input within *Service Management* while invoice amount changes in *Accounts Payable* are updated directly back into the *Service Management* and *Time and Materials* functions."

A LOOK AT JUST A FEW OF THE KEY APPLICATIONS COMPRISING eCMS 3.7

Tracking Job Cost

For many construction executives, the single most important criterion in selection of a financial system is often its job cost application. Regular cost tracking enables a construction firm to maintain control throughout the life of a project, regardless of its complexity. The eCMS *Job Cost* application calculates costs at defined intervals to identify potential cost variances.

OVER 200 NEW FEATURES

The result of over 7,000 hours of development, eCMS 3.7 offers over 200 new features, including major enhancements in *Service Management*, *Time and Materials*, *Materials Management*, *Plant Sales* and *Equipment Management*. Kirk cites the *Plant Sales* applica-



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Coming in 2009: "Portal Out of a Box" Beyond the Dashboard

"Through *Job Cost*, construction executives gain real-time access to financial information about their company's performance," Kirk notes. "Because all data is integrated within the eCMS application set, the resulting information is always complete and accurate."

Cost-at-completion estimates are calculated using actual, projected, or estimated numbers to account for a variety of projected scenarios. The eCMS *Job Cost* system maintains a complete detailed history of transactions on all open and closed jobs, which can be printed in report form or accessed through on-line inquiry. When a closed job is removed, a permanent summary of the cost and income can be saved.

Document Imaging/Workflow

When it seems as though every major project requires a warehouse to store the associated paperwork and a fleet of fax machines to route documents for review and approval, it might be time to implement the eCMS integrated electronic *Document Imaging/Workflow* application.

A web browser-based document management solution, *Document Imaging* enables the user to quickly scan, store and catalog a wide variety of business documents and associate them with an eCMS record. Single or multiple image files can be assigned to an accounting discipline (A/R, A/P, G/L, etc.), and to a project or job jacket for fast and easy retrieval using any web browser.

In conjunction with eCMS *Document Imaging*, the integrated *Workflow* application eliminates the paper trail that currently reduces efficiency at most construction companies. With the *Workflow* application, an electronic (imaged) document can be e-mailed to any individual, group, or departments for quick and efficient review and approval.

With the anticipated release of Computer Guidance Corporation's *Portal Out of a Box (POB)* during the first quarter of 2009, eCMS users will have a more powerful management tool on their computer desktops.

"POB is more than a dashboard," explains Roger Kirk, President & CEO, Computer Guidance Corporation. "With POB, eCMS users will be able to run any web-enabled application across any platform."

According to Kirk, POB will permit users to process not only eCMS applications, but any other applications that can be launched from a URL — even project web cams. Information will be published to the portal directly from the respective application. Business intelligence, project hot list, instant messaging and/or rule-based alerts will interact seamlessly with the portal.

Equipment Accounting and Maintenance

The eCMS integrated *Equipment Accounting* application compares and tracks all of the construction company's fixed assets along with their physical location, scheduled maintenance and cost recovery. Because *Equipment Accounting* is fully integrated with the eCMS *G/L, A/P, Order Processing, Time and Material Billing, Job Cost, Payroll, Equipment Maintenance, Purchasing* and *Material Requisitions* applications, there is never a need for duplicate data entry.

repair cost by component, task and work order. Both corrective and preventive work orders can be generated by the system by piece of equipment, job, maintenance site, equipment class, department, or craft. The tasks to be performed are detailed with parts required, special instructions, estimated hours required, and status.

Time & Material Billing

The eCMS *Time and Material (T&M) Billing* system automatically generate billings for labor, materials, subcontracts, equipment and other transactions that comprise cost. Billings

are prepared from transactions entered through *Payroll, A/P, Order Processing/Inventory Management, G/L* and *Equipment Accounting* systems, as well as *T&M*.

Using the integrated eCMS *T&M* application, a construction company can eliminate the clerical time required to compile billable costs, extend invoice amounts and print invoices. All costs posted to a job are billed, reducing lost revenue from missed items. Preliminary invoices can be easily reviewed and adjusted before a final invoice is generated. Invoices are produced in detail or summary format by cost type, date or work order number. Invoices can also be printed in AIA contract formats to satisfy reporting requirements.

LEARN HOW COMPUTER GUIDANCE CAN HELP YOUR BOTTOM LINE

"Computer Guidance offers a free needs assessment of your current system," says Kirk. "We have industry-specific solutions for general, civil, electrical, mechanical and other specialty contractors." Contractors are invited to watch a seven minute demo of eCMS at www.computerguidance.com/video and to browse an archive of webcasts from FMI and Grant Thornton on industry trends at www.computerguidance.com/webcasts.

The image displays several screenshots of the eCMS software interface. The top left shows a 'Business Objects' window with a bar chart and a pie chart. The top right shows a 'Business Objects' window with a table of data. The bottom left shows a 'Business Objects' window with a table of data. The bottom right shows a 'Business Objects' window with a table of data.

Tracked No.	Equipment No.	Description	Date of Service	Days	Rate	Amount	Due
3443	3223	CAT Wheel Loader	12/18 - 12/20	3	300.00	1800.00	
3477	1290	CAT 416 Backhoe	12/17 - 12/20	3	228.00	678.00	

Similarly, the eCMS *Equipment Maintenance* application helps users track and manage fleet maintenance costs to minimize down time and maximize efficiency. An interactive inquiry feature reflects critical conditions and task status. The application provides detailed analysis of

How Top Contractors Stay on Top of Their Projects

TOP



CONTRACTORS

Computer Guidance: The Industry Leader

Largest Representation of the ENR Top 50 Contractors have standardized on Computer Guidance's single system solution for financial accounting and project management

Largest Representation of all ENR Top 400 Contractors use Computer Guidance for accounting, job costing and project management

Leading job costing and accounting software solution since 1996 - CFMA IT Survey¹

1st in reliability and dependability with 99.99% uptime running on IBM platform

Learn How Computer Guidance Can Help Your Bottom Line

Free Needs Assessment of Your Current System

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1. Statistics excerpted from CFMA's 2008 Information Technology Survey for the Construction Industry (7th edition) with permission of the Construction Financial Management Association, Princeton, NJ, 609-452-8000.