

eCMS v.4.0 ERP Software Job Costing and Payroll



"I would have to hire an entire additional workforce to maintain and manage the things that eCMS Job Costing and Payroll applications have automated for us. Our life is simpler with eCMS thanks to its rock-solid reliability and unlimited flexibility. Regardless of the size of the job or how fast the required turnaround, eCMS ERP scales accordingly yet delivers the same consistency and efficiency that we have come to expect and appreciate."

—Darlene McCabe, Accounting Manager, Rudolph Libbe Companies, Inc.

Company: Rudolph Libbe Companies, Inc.

Industry: Commercial Builder/GC

Construction Services: Full service commercial contractor with trade services including Mechanical, Electrical, Carpentry, Masonry, Civil, Boilermaker, and Structural Steel

Corporate Headquarters: Walbridge, Ohio

Territory/Locations: Ohio, Michigan, and New York

Client Information: Building on decades of preconstruction and consulting experience, general contractor Rudolph Libbe Companies Inc. ensures safe job sites, accurate budgets, quality services, and minimized risks and disruption to its customers' daily operations. This broad family of companies—Rudolph Libbe Inc., GEM Inc., GEM Energy, Rudolph Libbe Properties—are united under Rudolph Libbe Group.

- Founded in 1955
- Annual Revenue \$500M+
- 600 Employees

Software Applications:

eCMS, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Equipment Accounting, Equipment Maintenance, General Ledger, Human Resources, Material Requisition, Job Cost, Order Processing, Payroll, Purchasing, Time & Material Billing, and Business Intelligence & Analytics

Technology Environment:

On-premise eCMS

Challenge: Since 1996, Rudolph Libbe Companies has leveraged the power and flexibility of Computer Guidance Corporation Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software to support its ongoing growth as well as the diverse and ever-changing needs of its customers. Consistent upgrades and enhancements to Computer Guidance's eCMS ERP solution has allowed the firm to stay competitive and continue to deliver cost-effective, high-quality construction. Rudolph Libbe Companies operational efficiency and productivity have increased significantly over time thanks to the implementation of new technologies which support more efficient business processes and enhanced operational capabilities.

With far-reaching yet flexible infrastructure, Rudolph Libbe Companies has been able to expand the company's scope of work and respond to a wider range of customer needs. The contractor can deliver on fast-paced and quick-turnaround projects while managing its supporting financial and administrative workload without adding additional expenses and overhead. Because quick-turn, high-volume construction requires the ability to maintain a fluctuating payroll at higher than normal levels, the management of job costs, including labor expenses, must be accurate and timely in order to secure profitability and maintain customer satisfaction.

The challenges associated with quick-turn construction can be highlighted through the following example of a project on a six-week timetable. GEM Inc. would be awarded a project and notify the payroll department one week prior to start up. Such a job would dictate an increase of 600 workers because Rudolph Libbe Companies self-performs its work. Without eCMS ERP and its feature-rich Payroll and Job Costing applications, this scenario would immediately increase stress company-wide, adding unnecessary administrative processes and increasing expenses.

Solution: Most companies' payroll processes would struggle to handle such increase in volume and on such short notice. However, Rudolph Libbe Companies' experience, efficiency and the functionality of the eCMS ERP allows the firm to deliver these projects consistently on time without additional expenses.

Once awarded a quick-turnaround project, Rudolph Libbe Companies collects the start-up components:

- Complete job setup, including state/county/local tax
- Job cost code setup
- Increase /decrease in manpower (employee and union setup)
- Payroll time entry
- Layoffs – remote site capabilities
- Paystubs

Start-up components are often unavailable in a timely manner, but instead of having to wait until all job information is on hand; eCMS provides Rudolph Libbe Companies the capability to forge ahead immediately on every project, deploying equipment, resources and employees quickly into action while making sure their team members are paid accurately and timely.

Specifically, Rudolph Libbe Companies can enter time data without having a job established, appropriate cost codes setup, or having employees setup completely. All data entered using the eCMS menu option is held in a batch, and the system also provides the ability to directly import a formatted timesheet template which has been filled in by the project superintendent to eliminate entry by payroll associates.

Once all setups are completed, payroll associates are able to populate a report which identifies any data entry errors or setups that were not completed. This option is important, giving Rudolph Libbe Companies the ability to verify and/or change information for accuracy as needed. The exemption report saves tremendous time and ensures that all populated data is accurate and complete. And, because the firm's eCMS solution is browser-based with integrated applications, all of these tasks can be done remotely at jobsites if and as needed.

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“When your organization’s finances are greatly impacted by invoice handling, payroll processing, job costing and cash management, some simple process optimizations can transform mere existence into full-fledged operational excellence. The cost savings achieved across our organization have been extraordinary, but we can also easily identify the improvements eCMS has made in the quality of life of Rudolph Libbe employees.”

—Darlene McCabe, Accounting Manager, Rudolph Libbe Companies, Inc.

Solution (cont.): eCMS ensures that there are no delays with processing by other departments. Lacking pieces of information for one or two jobs no longer negatively impact the productivity of weekly payroll. And, with the ability to enter timecard data on a daily basis, Rudolph Libbe Companies can efficiently manage unexpected layoffs, with ample time to verify accuracy and review potential errors in advance. The time card import entry option allows changes while the process continues to move forward with the end result being the same every week no matter the manpower numbers.

Rudolph Libbe Companies ERP job costing and payroll applications provide rich functionality, simple flexibility and broad scalability to handle multiple scenarios of different job types and sizes simultaneously without them impacting one another. Since the data is integrated and available from the browser-based application set, project managers in the field and accountants in the office all have the same information—accessible anytime, anywhere.

Lessons Learned: Rudolph Libbe Companies is proud to rely on some of eCMS’ most common applications, even if most other companies don’t give them a second thought. That’s because Rudolph Libbe Companies leverages these core accounting functions to deliver unprecedented functionality, flexibility and scalability to each project. Custom features specifically tailored to Rudolph Libbe Companies unique business needs, including union payroll reporting, government compliancy reporting and batch payroll processing; only enhance the ability of the firm to stay lean and profitable while meeting the needs of its diverse customer base.

Results:

- Eliminated several manual processes
- Saved thousands of dollars by not delaying data entry or having to enter data in multiple systems manually and multiple times
- Improved company-wide visibility into business-critical information with integrated data and remote ubiquitous access to ERP
- Gained efficiency through automation, standardization and fact-based decision-making
- Increased cost controls company wide
- In summary, the estimated savings in administrative costs for this project scenario is estimated to be \$10,000 and Rudolph Libbe Companies perform on average 10 of these turn-around projects a year, estimating at least \$100,000 savings annually.



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