

Case Study

A Single Version of Truth:
Marine Construction Company
Integrates ERP and Project
Workflows



THE COMPANY

Founded in 1919, J.F. Brennan Company Inc. (Brennan) is a fourth-generation family run marine construction firm that specializes in environmental remediation, dam construction, commercial diving, harbor management, and submarine cable services.

The company works with public and private owners of water-based infrastructure and operates nationwide throughout coastal and inland waterways.

Company Name: J.F. Brennan Company
Headquarters: La Crosse, WI
of Employees: 500 - 1,000



OVERVIEW

Marine construction company, Brennan, runs its project management functions using Autodesk® Build. The company wanted a complete view of its operations. Management saw that there was too much manual and duplicate data entry occurring between their operations and accounting systems. As a result, Brennan's departments had to reconcile discrepancies in financial results and forecasts, leading to significant time spent on additional communication and rework.

To reduce the risk of error, streamline processes, and improve cost control, Brennan identified the need to integrate their project management system, Autodesk Build, with their accounting system, eCMS. They engaged Computer Guidance Corporation partner INRS to integrate the two systems.



CHALLENGES

Siloed Systems Created Communication Challenges

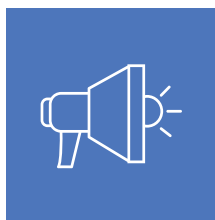
Prior to the integration, Brennan lacked visibility into job financial performance, and employees spent excessive time manually tracking, entering, and correlating data. This challenge was further compounded by Brennan subcontracting out a significant portion of work. Project Managers were responsible for manually managing all activities related to each subcontractor.

There was no real time data alignment between project management teams in the field and accounting personnel in the office. Processes were too often one off and manual, which meant they were inconsistent and not timely.

Wanted: Transparent Data

Brennan wanted to tie the financial side of its business together with operations from bidding through project completion across all their projects.

The first course of action was a thorough review of Brennan's business processes, which led to an initiative to standardize core project management practices—particularly around cost control and communication. From there, Brennan collaborated closely with INRS, CGC, and Autodesk to ensure the integration aligned with their desired workflows and positioned them for future growth.



“The bottom line is our Accounting and Project Management teams have eliminated non-value-added work and can now focus on the important tasks of customer relationship management and job execution.”

Ann Boland
Chief Information Officer
J.F. Brennan Company

SOLUTION

Integrated Project Management & Cost Management Streamlines Project Delivery

Products installed:

Autodesk Construction Cloud (Autodesk Build) for construction management, integrated with the eCMS Cloud ERP financial management application.

Results Include Better Foundation for Growth

Brennan cited the integration for providing increased process consistency. As a result, its projects are completed more efficiently.

Every department now uses the same data. That means that the company's data is more accurate throughout. Brennan has reduced rekeying and has less manual data entry.

The integration provides a single source of truth. That has led to better visibility and confidence in job performance and in Brennan's forecast data.

More important, the integration of eCMS Cloud ERP & Autodesk Build set the company up for future growth. Project Managers can now spend time on more important work and the leadership team can focus on strategic business decisions and not just on daily processes and tasks.

RESULTS

- Real-time data exchange between financial and project management functions.
- Single source of truth for job financial performance.
- Standardization of cost management and forecasting procedures leading to more consistent and accurate results.
- Elimination of redundant data entry and manual work.
- Quicker and smarter decision-making.
- Improved efficiency for project managers and project accountants.
- Increased confidence in job performance and forecast data.
- Timely management reporting.

AUTODESK
Construction Cloud

