



How Construction Project Management Software Could Benefit Mechanical Contractors

Driving Better Business Outcomes Using Technology



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Introduction

Mechanical contractors are one of the most valuable resources of construction projects due to their extensive range of expertise. Their knowledge and experience are leveraged by contractors to create and maintain the heating and cooling systems, refrigeration, piping and plumbing of new and existing buildings. Because of the complexity of their projects, they try to aim for leaning out their internal processes in order to increase profits.

For this reason, many specialty mechanical contractors are utilizing the true potential of construction project management software to increase efficiency and to improve their processes related to operations, communication and deliverables.

The Present Landscape

Since specialty contractors are a vital part of the construction process, they have several complex tasks to complete which need to be kept in sync with other project tasks, to ensure on time completion. As a result, mechanical contractors need transparency and open communication with general contractors.

According to ENR Top 600 specialty contractor's statistics, mechanical contractors have generated around \$25 billion of revenue out of \$135 billion or 18 percent profit on their projects. These firms are able to control and drive such a large amount of revenue due to efficient project management techniques.

In addition, the global demand for mechanical services such as HVAC has surged to be valued at around \$7 billion in 2019 and these figures are likely to double by the end of 2025 with the market expected to reach \$14 billion.

This projected growth is likely to happen due an increased demand for construction projects. In order to gain a competitive edge, mechanical contractors who aim to upgrade their process and efficiency will be able to generate better opportunities. Adopting an all-in-one construction accounting and project management system can be the ultimate solution contractors, irrespective of their size, should do to scale their business and expedite new projects.



General Challenges Mechanical Contractors Face

Mechanical contractors face various challenges with their construction projects throughout the project lifecycle. Since these challenges may make it difficult for contractors to keep command over portions of their existing projects, it becomes crucial to identify and resolve them in a timely manner.

Preconstruction Challenges

The preconstruction phase of any construction project involves the extensive planning of multiple tasks going on simultaneously. For instance, consider the process of bidding, estimation, and planning of the project which involves a thorough research of project goals, timelines and budgets. The preconstruction phase is critical for the project's success and requires steady control over project flow to keep other work in the pipeline undisturbed.

Bid Tracking

When working with a manual process that does not involve any centralized, integrated solution, there will be errors with the bid data due to missing standardization. This approach can and will create issues when trying to create realistic budgets and timelines. Using the same method, mechanical contractors may also miss out on identifying bids that are financially worth considering.

Communication

Communication and visibility are crucial in every step of the construction process. Timely clash detection can help contractors avoid potential delays or any added expense.

Accuracy

Another common challenge for mechanical contractors in the preconstruction phase is creating and maintaining accuracy when creating a budget. Inaccuracy usually stems from lack of visibility of budgets and change orders of past projects.

Challenges During The Construction Phase

Even after you win the bid, challenges still lie ahead. The construction phase demands that contractors are well-prepared for project planning, documentation, reporting and ensuring that all the tasks and milestones are delivered on time.



Employee Safety

Mechanical contractors often have project activities that demand the transfer of heavy material and equipment to the jobsite. Thus, it becomes essential to ensure safety at the site while adhering with the safety guidelines and necessary employee training.

Labor Shortage

Since mechanical construction requires skilled and efficient labor, they often face pressure of hiring and retaining skilled labor. Also, when there are projects on which contractors are working simultaneously, contractors must ensure that labor resources are accurately scheduled at the correct job site. Since the hiring process can be cumbersome and expensive, it becomes necessary consider skilled labor shortage a priority.

Planning & Documentation

When working on multiple projects at the same time, it is the responsibility of mechanical contractors to ensure that all teams have access to updated plans and changes. Using construction accounting and project management software can help to identify issues quickly to avoid any lags or delays in progress. Also, proper planning and following a documented process can help contractors avoid chances of disputes that might occur due to frequent change orders or lack of proper information within the billing process.

Cash Flow Management

The next challenge that mechanical contractors need to overcome is planning for cash flow retention. Many contractors have gaps in their invoicing process which often creates a issues when planning for reimbursements, due to missing documents and bills. Thus, it is essential for mechanical contractors to document all material purchases and other expenses that count for the billed hours. Also, lack of accuracy with the tracking of costs and expenses can create issues determining the profit and ultimately affecting the overall economic stature of the firm.



Finding New Technology

Many mechanical contractors these days are leaning on technology to meet their business needs especially when it comes to construction accounting, project management, and ERP related tasks. It is a struggle to find the right tool that can help you overcome all the above-defined challenges related to the preconstruction and construction phases. That being said, it is a significantly important task for the mechanical contractors to overcome any challenge that may appear due to lack of tools or technology as it might affect existing projects as well as future opportunities.

How Construction Project Management Software Can Help Mechanical Contractors?

Any mechanical contractor, irrespective of their business needs to create a technology strategy that can streamline project planning, workflow management, communication, billings, and other processes related to project completion. However, finding the right technology can be the potential factor that can help gain productivity and improve customer service.

Adopting an all-in-one construction accounting and project management software like ProjectPro may be the solution you have been looking for.

Workflow Standardization

Access to construction project management software can help mechanical contractors improve team interactions which will assist with workflow improvements. Software-based standardization can align field and office teams and sync process across various departments.

Since a manual process or one completed in spreadsheets makes it difficult to track equipment and resources, software technology benefits the workflow with better placement of people and equipment. Moreover, using an integrated all-in-one solution can help keep subcontractors, project owners, and the general contractor stays in contact and identify issues that might affect project goals.

Growing Work Opportunities

With the ease of project tracking through photos, reports, and other markup data, it is easier for both mechanical contractors and project owners to stay on the same page with progress. Moreover, managing documents and work progress can help contractors win the bids on maintenance projects as well. Also, without the ability to track and manage, field teams and technicians will not be able to keep an accurate record of the process which may result in increased expenses or loss of profits.

All in all, using construction accounting and project management software can create value which is not easy to gain with manual tracking of the work. Besides, using a cloud solution can help contractors reduce labor waste and save time.

Risk Reduction

Using an integrated solution acts as a single source of truth for all field and office teams. The technology not only gives the advantage of planning but documenting progress and changes to keep projects on-time without any financial loss. Also, cloud-based software technology allows contractors and field teams to have access to the latest drawing data and change orders which make it more convenient to adjust past estimates and drive the project forward. Moreover, the ease of scheduling tasks, create contract billing invoices, and the inclusion of all changes made into the system reduces risk since it brings down the chances of disputes and re-work.

Business Opportunities

Last but not least, mechanical contractors can use construction project management software to streamline, standardize and lean out their entire process, leading to better business opportunities. Cloud-based software allows contractors to maintain all project related data stored in the database; the information can be used to have more precision with the planning of future projects.

In addition to this, working on an integrated solution eliminates the risk of losing any valuable updated data that can affect the project work in progress. Using a solution like ProjectPro keeps all users updated in real-time. In other words, using a centralized technology makes it easy for field and office teams to coordinate in comparison to paperwork, excel sheets, or long email threads.



About ProjectPro

ProjectPro is a cloud-based Construction Accounting Software Solution based on Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central. It is designed to help construction companies manage tasks and requirements related to Project Accounting, Resource Management, and Project Management.

Streamlining business processes for construction firms, real estate developers, and contractors, ProjectPro can be used to work on Integrating Data, Transaction Processing, and robust reporting. Moreover, features like Cloud and Power BI help construction companies for improved Business Decision Making.

Some of the other features include Project Management, Project Billing, Advanced Job Labor, Change Order Tracking, and Material Planning. Moreover, ProjectPro includes Subcontract Management, RFQs, TimeSheets, and keeps a user updated with real-time Notifications and Alerts. It also comes with a dedicated mobile technician app that can help with field service operations.


At ProjectPro, we help construction firms with customized software solutions to make their construction business sustain and grow in this digitally growing world. We help you turn your vision into a value with promising services and a pleasant customer experience.

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Take Care! Stay Safe!