

A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE ADOPTION OF MODERN CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

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The era of data is a fast-paced one. New hardware models are turned out each year and software seems to update every other week. While some appear adept at 'riding the wave,' wipeouts are common and others have even stayed away from the water altogether. Understandably, the phrase 'don't fix what isn't broken,' holds some merit, but the saying, 'when you know better, do better' does as well. Furthermore, in a competitive, bidding industry like construction, it's well known that if your company does not attempt to 'do better' than the competition, the competition will. Let's say you've held fast to what's worked, though. The precision, dependability, increased communication, speed and efficiency of modern construction technology holds the power to make your name among the best in the business, but could you be too far behind the curve to adapt to these new ways of working? If you've thought, 'yes,' you are not alone. That's why the means to adopt new construction technology have been made clear and easy. Through professional contacts who know the solutions, regular training and a consistent equipment set, the adoption and use of cutting-edge construction technology is not only beneficial, but practical.

One of the best ways to learn anything is to ask someone who knows, and construction technology is no exception. Far from being a sea of semi-related innovations that can be cobbled together to create results, the hardware and software of today have been designed to work coherently. The companies responsible for such solutions understand the importance of having individuals available who know their inner workings and can interpret that in a way that customers understand, application and deliverables. Regularly trained and certified, these contacts have the legwork of researching the best solutions done for you, and they keep current on the latest developments. This means those interested in modernizing can seek to do so based on their actual needs and goals. They can, furthermore, implement the new methods with the peace of mind that they're getting the most competitive and beneficial bang for their buck out there, instead of attempting to achieve the same blindly through trial and error on their own.

This same training and certification that makes the aforementioned professionals good to know when you're looking to buy also makes them invaluable for modernizing your crew as well. Introductory courses can get a team up to speed on the latest and greatest in hardware and software of their particular interest, and both application-specific and advanced courses can fine-tune their knowledge and efficiency to the needs of a company. Regularly scheduled and annual training can further ensure that crews stay informed and proficient with the most current technology and any updates, helping you and your organization 'ride the wave' of innovation. Additionally, many of these trainings can be scheduled either in the classroom or on-site, providing the full benefits that only hands-on learning can garner. Given

is a strong motivation to do so from a 'wave-riding' viewpoint also. Just as with any product line that involves software, the solutions of modern construction technology experience continuous updates as their creators work to make them ever better. By maintaining a consistent fleet of equipment, you ensure the ability to reap the benefits of each update without the need to constantly chase them with the purchase of new hardware. Furthermore, digital files and plans created in earlier versions of software programs will likely be compatible, having the same developers as newer releases. Conversely, new hardware will almost always be made compatible with the software that its predecessors were made for, especially if from the same manufacturer. Finally, if ever there is an issue with compatibility, that manufacturer



a technology solutions advisor and training for your team, the last thing you have to do is standardize your toolbox.

Just as you don't mix metric with U.S. measurement; it pays to keep your equipment fleet the same as well. There are a few obvious reasons for this, including remaining with the organization your modern solutions provider represents and streamlining your channels for advice, training and support. However, there

will be aware and will have workarounds in place to address it, having done the legwork again for you beforehand. Tie this in with the trade-in and upgrade incentives that companies offer for their equipment and you can be sure to maintain the latest and greatest technology for your team without having to miss a beat and in the most cost-effective way possible!

When one stops to consider the benefits that modern construction solutions offer, as



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discussed in my previous articles in the form of Building Information Technology (BIM), field layout software, robotic total stations and 3D scanning technology, their obvious pros are clear. Therefore, the main con to their utilization, for many, remains the successful transition from traditional methods and adaptation of a new way of working. This is why manufacturers and technology providers alike have partnered to provide a system by which those who seek to modernize may acquire their solutions in an informed way, ensure their crews are able to use them at peak efficiency and continue to stay competitive atop a sea of constant updates. The financial cost of making the move to modernization is, of course, one to consider, but an investment that is sure to pay off amongst the competition that exists in the construction world. For this reason, a simple approach of finding the right professional guidance, who can provide regular training and support, and a uniform fleet of equipment that can roll with the updates is your key to making the move to modern construction technology a practical one.

