Next Generation Construction ERP
The Future of Construction

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Introduction

With technology having reached a point of inflection in recent years, key industries, if not all, have experienced significant changes and an acceleration in their growth trajectory. As such, the pace of commerce has been increasing at an unprecedented rate and processes are being streamlined and optimized. As a result, customers expect more in a shorter period of time. This blend of requirements, complexity and pressures — combined with skills scarcity — is changing the way construction projects are delivered.
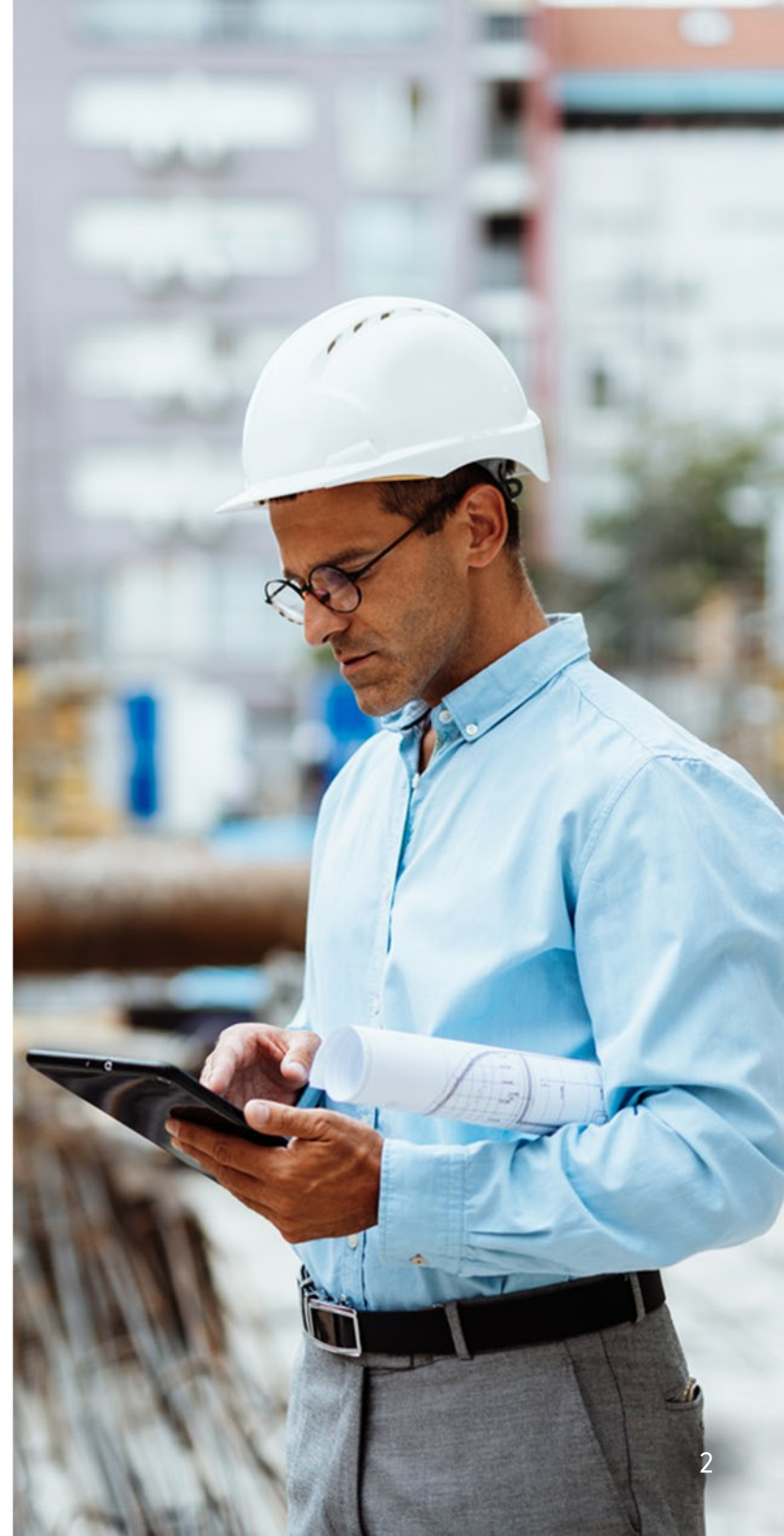
A tool to manage these changes is technology, specifically a Next Generation ERP, such as CMiC's CONSTRUCT™ suite.

The Demand for a "Post Modern ERP" Increases: Applicability and Trends

As the industry continues to transform, the systems used to manage construction work must also change. As such, leaders at most construction firms understand the significance of this shift. According to a study by Gartner, 91% of all organizations — including construction firms — are searching for new capabilities to better integrate and streamline their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems so they can leverage robust capabilities, select from deployment options that align with their technology infrastructure, and optimize processes to manage multidimensional projects.[1]

Here are some key statistics that demonstrate why leaders at construction firms are making the decision to switch to an ERP with more robust applications and advanced features:

✓ 81% of US-based construction firms have implemented an ERP — within this, 16% of these firms are either implementing these solutions for the first time, or are in the process of upgrading their existing systems[1]

✓ 91% of organizations are looking for new capabilities to better integrate their back-office systems[2]

✓ 70% of decision makers have mandated modernizing their ERP as a key business priority[2]

✓ Seamless integration with other systems is becomingly increasingly important, with "44% of transactional data ... housed in ERP systems ... being captured from integration or external partners"[2]

✓ In recent years, construction firms which have implemented a "modern ERP system" have been able to accelerate their delivery timelines by up to 24%[1]

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The best way to future-proof construction firms' operational processes and keep pace with changes to the economic landscape while meeting customers' evolving needs is to update your tech stack with a next generation construction ERP.

A next generation ERP also helps you build an unmatched competitive advantage by empowering your teams to make more informed decisions. Company leaders will be able to create a highly engaged and connected workforce using one platform that serves as the single source of truth.

The obvious question then becomes "how quickly can I select and implement a next generation construction ERP?"

Business Value and Applicability: What Next Generation Construction ERPs Bring to the Table

In theory, "Enterprise resource planning (ERP) is defined as the ability to deliver an integrated suite of business applications. ERP tools share a common process and data model, covering broad and deep operational end-to-end processes, such as those found in finance, HR, distribution, manufacturing, service and the supply chain."[3] With that said, every aspect of a construction business that affects performance — from revenue and cost management to document and change order management to subcontractor procurement and billing — is a key component to an ERP. Accordingly, these next generation platforms equip teams to optimize processes and deliver projects in the most effective way possible.

Here are some key benefits of leveraging post Next Generation ERPs:

1. Advanced Integration Capabilities:

✓ By integrating back-office financial tools with field project management tools — as well as other third-party systems — to provide construction teams the ability to deliver high quality projects on time, and within budget.

✓ Open APIs allow you to integrate your company's applications to that of your integration partners offering complementary technologies.

2. Improved Project Quality and Team Performance Using Real-Time Data:

✓ With the high volumes of data that are collected at jobsites, the use of mobile devices to capture and feed into the ERP allows team leads and mangers to make data-driven decisions.

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3. Enabling a Connected Workforce by Connecting Teams Back Office and Field Teams:

✓ With the high volumes of data that are collected at jobsites, the use of mobile devices to capture and feed into the ERP allows team leads and mangers to make data-driven decisions.

Futureproofing Your Organization: Finding the Best Next Generation Construction ERP for Your Construction Firm

When you kickstart your evaluation journey to find a Next Generation Construction ERP, it's critical to look for a solution that improves project delivery, optimizes processes and promotes communication and collaboration.

Below are key considerations to make during your evaluation journey:

1. Key Capabilities to Facilitate Real-Time Collaboration and Communication:
By design, Next Gen ERPs have capabilities that allow project team members to access project data and documents, run and share reports and send and receive communications.

2. Cross-Device Access and Functionality:
With project team members working out of different types of locations (e.g. office, jobsite), and, at times, different jobsites, having access to these applications is critical to timely project delivery.

3. Optimized and Creative Workflows:
By enabling creative workflows, project leads are able to identify areas to optimize processes, thereby accelerate time to value.

4. Advanced Design and Easy-to-Use Interface:
Easy-to-use interfaces with advanced data visualization capabilities help leaders make data-driven decisions quickly, on top of facilitating higher adoption rates.

5. Strong Offline Capabilities:
With connectivity potentially being a challenge at remote worksites, the ability for users to work offline, where updates will sync automatically the next time they connect to a network, is of great value.

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CMiC: The Leader in Next Generation Construction ERP

To keep up with the accelerating the pace of business today, decision makers at construction firms often find themselves on a mission to modernize their ERP systems — all with the end-goal of improving efficiency, fostering collaboration, enhancing mobile access, and facilitating seamless integration with other systems.

CMiC, a leading construction ERP provider, addresses this requirement with a postmodern ERP solution.

Its postmodern ERP as a technology solution automates and marries administrative and operational business capabilities — which includes finance, HR, quality and safety, bidding and procurement as well as opportunity management — to drive flexibility and agility for its users.

What catapulted CMiC's position as a leader in next generation construction ERP was the launch latest product offering, CONSTRUCT™.

CONSTRUCT™: Driving Integrated Project Delivery

As an enterprise project management solution built with cutting edge technology, CONSTRUCT™ is designed to help construction firms drive integrated project delivery, optimize processes and heighten office-to-field communications. From a foundation perspective, CONSTRUCT™ is built with a next generation technology platform "layered in" with Business Intelligence to help teams make data-driven decisions in real-time.

This product set allows teams to effectively control project changes, manage material suppliers and subcontractor tasks, streamline bidding processes, and improve document management by ensuring frictionless communication and collaboration. Managers gain the capability to track labour productivity, manage budgets and payroll, and accurately maintain the schedule of their field teams.

Built on a single database platform, CONSTRUCT™ offers end-to-end visibility and control over all aspects of construction operations. With all data in one place, firms can streamline processes, reduce data entry errors, and eliminate redundancies. This promotes greater efficiency and productivity across an organization. More importantly, the solution comes with advanced mobile functionality and provides consistent user-interface across iOS, Android, and the web, with solid offline support. On top of that, the platform also adapts to the user input method — be it a mouse, keyboard or touchscreen device.

From a business benefit perspective, this robust suite of solutions equips users to:

✓ Enable creative workflows

✓ Accelerate processes and project deliverables through real-time collaboration

✓ Optimize cross-platform usage

✓ Maximize productivity through strong offline capabilities

The Launch of CMiC's CONSTRUCT™ Suite

To date, the key applications within the CONSTRUCT™ Suite that have been launched include:
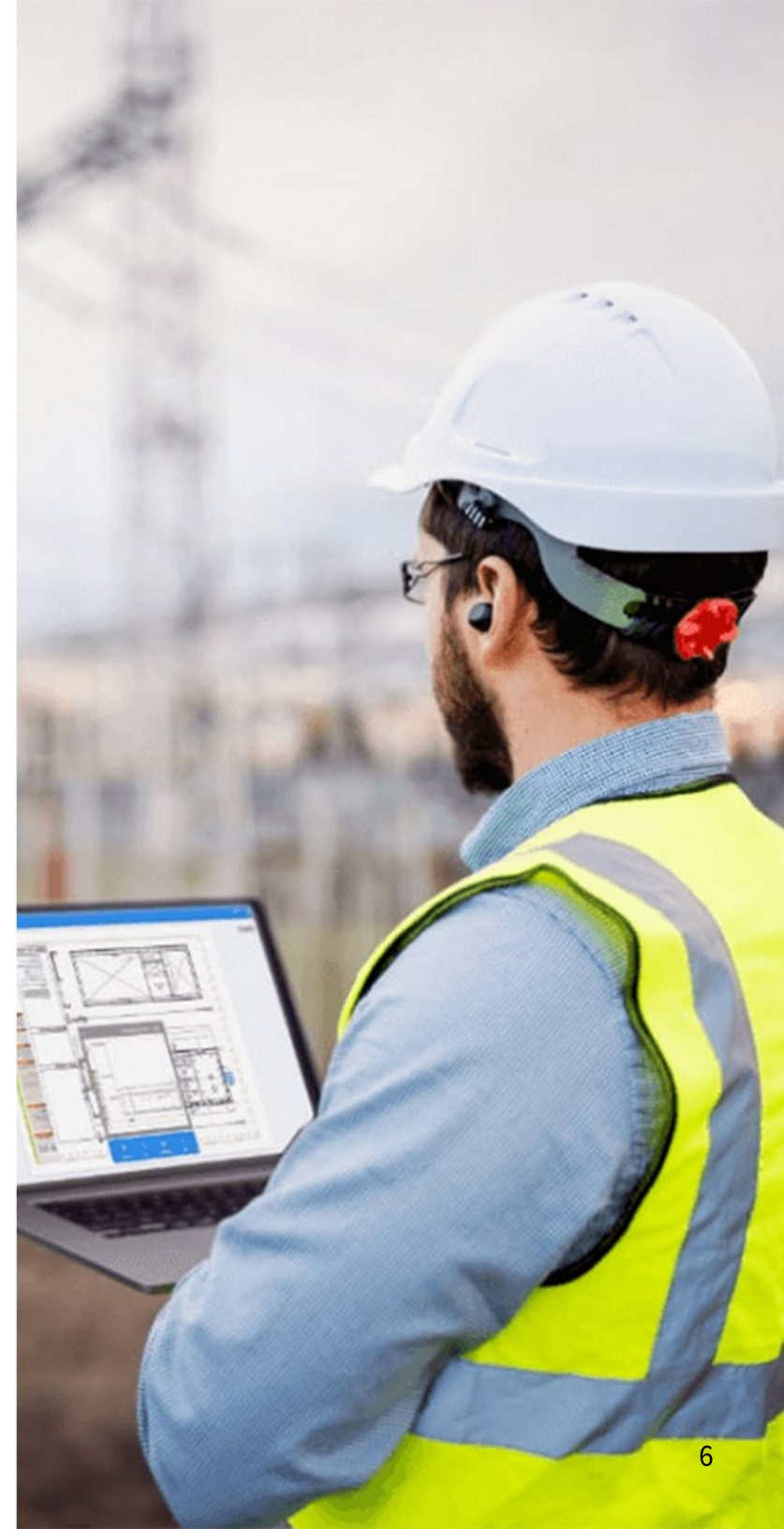
✓ CONSTRUCT Project Management

✓ CONSTRUCT Crew Time

✓ CONSTRUCT Employee Self Service (ESS)

✓ CONSTRUCT Check In

CONSTRUCT Project Management helps firms manage all aspects of their project delivery operations. It also helps teams optimize forecasting and resource planning with its financial underpinnings, providing verified costs for every transaction source. Equally as important, decision-makers can draw richer insights from data in real-time. In fact, this application doesn't simply enable construction teams to work efficiently in the field — it sets the stage for future growth.

CONSTRUCT Crew Time easily manages and tracks labour activity, ensuring that each crew member is accounted for, and labour costs are accurately calculated. This dashboard provides instant updates on job reporting, allowing users to monitor labour costs effectively. Additionally, it automates breaks to ensure that crew members clock-out at the end of their shift.

CONSTRUCT Employee Self-Service enables HR teams to streamline processes, improve accuracy, and save time on administrative tasks. It empowers employees to manage, review and submit leave requests, automatically update deductions in payroll, and access their benefits.

CONSTRUCT Check In app enables remote workers to punch in their time and provides team leads the ability to be compliant through accurate time entry. It provides visibility so that managers can easily view who clocked in and out during each shift. Foremen can view labour activities such as active and non-active hours in live logs and will have full control to make any adjustments for punch-in time. In addition, it provides them access timesheet data for all their crews, all in one place.
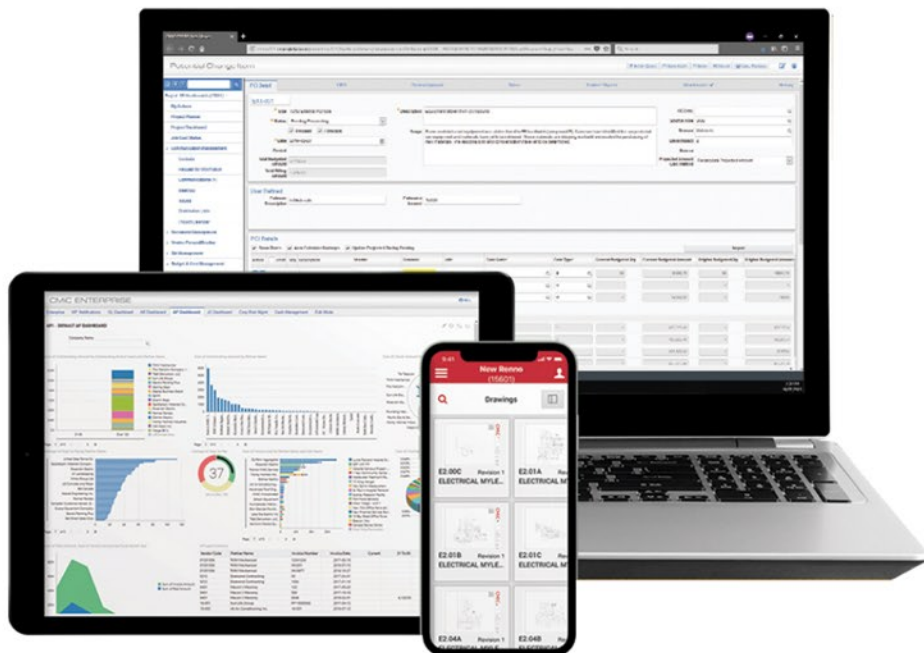
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According to Steve Cangiano, VP of Product — CMiC, "as a product leader in the construction software space, my team and I are committed to driving product innovation. The CONSTRUCT suite is a testament to our focus and effort on next generation solutions to provide our customers the best user experience and help them elevate performance in both the short and long term."

With an advanced workflow engine and robust performance across all platforms, CONSTRUCT is the future of construction ERP.

To learn more about CMiC's capabilities and the business value its solution delivers, please click here.

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