

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

ERP SELECTION GUIDE

Construction Management:

ERP Selection Guide

According to [a recent Deloitte report](#), the construction industry brought more than \$900 billion to the United States economy in the first quarter of 2020. Then, the abrupt slowdown caused by the pandemic wiped out nearly two years of GDP gains and four years of job gains. Still, there are [many reasons to remain optimistic in 2021 and beyond](#).

AFTER THE DEVASTATING impact of the 2008 recession, engineering and construction companies were better prepared to weather sudden shifts in the economy. And like many other industries, construction is poised for a comeback as restrictions are eased, businesses reopen and people are eager to get back to work.

One thing construction companies can do to set themselves apart is to invest in digital strategies for growth. As a whole, the industry is lagging behind in digital maturity and the pandemic underscored the importance of shifting to digital tools to ensure resiliency and business continuity.

Construction companies without the tools in place to manage operations face the following challenges:

- » Lack of communication with field teams, causing projects to finish late and over budget
- » Reliance on manual processes and disconnected systems, which often results in missing information and unnecessary mistakes
- » Using multiple, independent platforms for project management and accounting, resulting in a lack of visibility into project costs and future forecasting issues
- » No visibility into overall operations, creating the inability to adapt processes as demand fluctuates

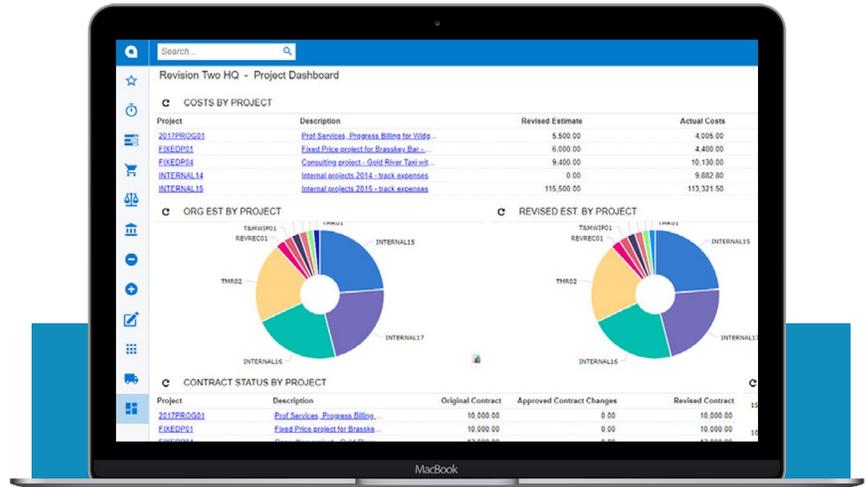
What is ERP Software?

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) software is a comprehensive business management tool used by multiple industries that connects and organizes all the areas of your business. The goal of integrating an ERP with your organization is to reduce redundancies, increase efficiency, and provide a 360-degree view of your business, including but not limited to accounting, production, inventory, procurement, human resources, risk management, compliance, project management, sales, and supplier relationships.

Available in the Cloud or on-premise, ERP can replace all the separate systems that do not integrate or are poorly integrated with other departments. The result is a single system that delivers a single source of truth into the state of your manufacturing company. With ERP, you can streamline processes and make data-driven decisions to maximize profits and reduce costs.

While each department system may have its own core set of features, ERP's strength lies in integration. Data collected from every department feeds into a central location that company leaders can use to understand past and current operations and forecast future needs.

The impact ERP makes on daily operations can be seen at the departmental level all the way up to the C-suite.



Acumatica Cloud ERP has a solution purpose-built for the construction industry. [Click this link to watch a product tour.](#)



The Benefits of Construction ERP Software

Software built for the construction industry brings together financials, job cost accounting, project management, payroll, inventory, service management and more into a single platform. With visibility into business-wide operations, construction companies can increase collaboration, streamline time-sensitive processes and increase project profitability.

Streamline Communication

The more complicated a business gets as it grows, the more important it is to have the tools in place to address the increase in volume, customer orders and administrative complexities. Construction companies that rely on legacy systems or manual spreadsheets to run their businesses likely have difficulties sharing data and communicating between project teams.

Cloud construction management software provides workflows that increase collaboration across the entire business. Users can set project alerts to keep team members informed of what they need to do next, helping to minimize downtime and eliminate unnecessary costs and delays. Integrations with Outlook allow users to update project activities and eliminate multiple communication processes. Centralized storage for project drawings, photos and change orders keeps all details in one location for greater efficiency.

Track Projects in Real Time

ERP for construction manages all the small moving parts that make up a project. With integrated software, project managers can easily track costs and compare them to budgets, view and sort important

documents and collaborate with other users. Because accounting and project management are connected in one platform, users get greater visibility into budget versus actual costs, change orders, subcontractor commitments, compliance issues and more. As team members input information into the system, real-time updates ensure all users are accessing the most current documentation (such as RFIs, daily field reports and change orders).

Eliminate Costly Delays

Cloud construction management software streamlines the exchange of information between your office and teams out in the field. The system will sync if someone makes changes to items such as an RFID, project issues or time cards. This allows managers to address important issues immediately because everyone has access to the same data. An ERP for construction cuts down on administrative overhead and avoids error-prone manual processes that can cause costly delays. With access to a single source of information, all stakeholders can remain on the same page and work toward the same goals.

Fast Track Teamwork and Save Time

Automation is the future of business management, whether it's for construction and engineering companies or the vendors you rely on. Complex, manual workflows create roadblocks that slow down communication and task fulfillment. Subcontractors, architects, contractors and other parties may all have their own methods of communication, thus adding to the time it takes to move from one step to the next. Construction ERP software provides automated workflows that increase collaboration with the following:

- » Automation of tasks and processes to eliminate duplicate data entry
- » Intuitive dashboards and alerts to ensure action items will be addressed and project data will remain current
- » Powerful BI tools to provide real-time analysis of current projects and intelligence forecasting of future ones

Mobile Access Anytime Anywhere

As illustrated by the events of 2020, remote technology is truly the future of business continuity. Connecting the field to the office is a necessity, and cloud technology and mobile apps make real-time connections possible. With mobile access, users can document and update projects from the field. Technicians can stay connected to stakeholders instead of playing the waiting game, helping to shave hours off work schedules. Employees can keep projects moving by not having to track down RFIDs, change orders and project plans because all relevant documentation is available in their business management system, which can be accessed from any browser-enabled device. Mobile functionality enhances the flow of information between teams and keeps everyone moving forward.



Features to Look for in ERP for Construction

With an ERP solution purpose-built for the construction industry, you can eliminate delays, trim costs and help office staff and field teams work together to improve efficiency.

Project accounting, forecasting, field services and strict safety and environmental regulations are a few of the unique pressures on construction companies. To manage these challenges, a vendor can't just customize generic software. They need to have the experience, features and functionality already developed, so that you can ensure you're choosing the best tools to run your business.

It's important to look for ERP software that gives you greater control over all aspects of your business on the executive, operational and project levels. That's the kind of control that only comes from using cloud-based construction project management software that can deliver real-time information on any web-enabled device.

When choosing a solution for your construction business, look for the following features:



Accounting

- » Test and tweak data to see the financial impact of specific decisions or expenditures
- » Accurately forecast and manage job costs, profits, cash and taxes
- » Maximize project profitability in real time
- » Lower financial and operational risk with accurate projections
- » Manage financials across the organization



Project Management

- » Access real-time information to stay on top of every project and budget
 - » Leverage real-time data for faster decision making
 - » Track all activities, documents and costs from one integrated system
 - » Gain greater visibility into every link of your supply chain and adjust project timelines as you go
-



Field Management

- » Increase productivity by optimizing job sites, work schedules and hiring processes
 - » Enable the office to work in tandem with the field to ensure employee time, expenses and change orders are captured
 - » Streamline work processes, including ordering, equipment availability, inventory and personnel management
 - » Eliminate double entry to further save time
 - » Create more profitable projects by making each job more efficient
-



CRM

- » Perform marketing, quoting and sales tasks directly within the system
 - » Manage delivery and post-sales support to maintain strong client relationships
 - » Maintain always up-to-date and accurate customer data
 - » Use automation features to support better communication with customers, helping you to grow your business and boost your reputation
-



Mobile Access

- » Connect people and projects from anywhere, whether in the field, at the office or at home
- » Access and update critical project details from a smartphone or tablet
- » Increase productivity by reducing the time it takes to access information



The Construction ERP Selection Process

ERP is an essential business tool for construction professionals. When vetting ERP solutions for your organization, consider the following priorities:



Assemble a Project Team

Start by establishing an internal selection team, ideally including the key stakeholder who will be using the solution every day. A consulting partner like NexTec Group can help with this process. The team should be able to articulate the features, functions and requirements that are essential to the success of your individual company. They should know what their current processes look like and how to improve the way they're already doing things.



Conduct a Business Process Review

Together with your consulting partner, conduct a business process review to help identify the areas that would benefit from a connected business management system. Ask questions such as:

- » Where are the bottlenecks in our current processes?
- » What areas could benefit from more visibility and transparency?
- » Are there areas of opportunity that we're currently missing?
- » Do we lack processes or insight that could help us become more competitive?



Select the Right Solution

Once you have defined the areas for improvement, you can move on to the selection stage. Your consulting partner will help evaluate various solutions and how they compare. A [checklist like this one specific to construction management ERP](#) can help. At this point, you should have a good idea of which ERP solution best meets your company's requirements.

Construction Management System Evaluation Checklist

Selecting a project management and accounting system to run your business is a decision that will affect your company for many years. Many products offer the same or similar features, and it can be confusing to sort out what's important and what's not. This tool can help.

Use this checklist to compare the features and benefits of construction system vendors across these five categories:

PRODUCTIVITY	What can the product do to make you and your staff more productive?
FUNCTIONALITY	What features and functions does the product have that actually perform the daily accounting and Business Management functions?
TECHNOLOGY	Does the product leverage technology for usability, customizability, and maintainability?
VALUE	How does the product maximize features and functions vs. cost for the usable lifetime of the product?
RISK	How does the product minimize risk and facilitate security (both network and financial security)?



Acumatica Acumatica provides the full suite of integrated business management applications, including Construction, Financial, Distribution, Manufacturing, Project Accounting, and Equipment with industry best practices technology. www.acumatica.com

A construction management ERP evaluation checklist can help in the selection process.

NexTec Recommends Acumatica Cloud ERP

Acumatica Construction Edition provides industry-specific features and functionality to improve the way you work, including:

- » Real-time views of every project
- » All of your company's data in one complete system
- » The ability to adapt the software to your specific requirements
- » Seamless integration of your processes (project accounting, contracts, change orders, document management, compliance, retainage, inventory, customer management and more)
- » Availability wherever, whenever you need it

Whether you're a general contractor, subcontractor, specialty contractor, homebuilder or land developer, you can rely on Acumatica to handle all of your processes in one solution, saving you time, effort and money.

The Acumatica difference



Acumatica has been named the Best Cloud ERP Solution and the Best ERP Software. In 2020, it ranked highest in customer satisfaction and usability.

True cloud solution

Acumatica is a Cloud-based ERP solution and provides a consistent experience for all users, whether they access the system from a phone, tablet or desktop. Acumatica's SaaS model ensures reliability and security and will give you the assurance that your data is managed appropriately and in compliance with all applicable regulations.

Real-time collaboration, reporting, and analytics

Acumatica Construction Edition is a modern Cloud ERP system that's designed to help you meet industry challenges. It provides broad and deep functionality that enables you to tackle accounting, contracts, change orders, compliance and customer relationships all on one integrated platform. With real-time access to data from anywhere, you can keep an eye on project costs and your bottom line.

Open Architecture and Rapid Integration

Acumatica seamlessly integrates with hundreds of commonly used applications, including Office 365, Salesforce, Magento, Power BI, Box, HubSpot, Amazon Alexa and Tableau. The Construction Edition further integrates with other construction solutions including ProEst, Procore, Microsoft Office, DocuSign and many more. By choosing an Acumatica partner like NexTec, you can quickly integrate all your mission-critical applications and customize your solution to fit your specific business needs.

Anytime, Anywhere Access

Because Acumatica is a secure, cloud-based ERP, all critical stakeholders can access the platform from any device and any location. That means your construction business can run from the field to the boardroom and beyond.

Future-Proof Functionality

Acumatica grows with you. Use what you need, add users as desired and scale your business up or down as circumstances dictate. Pay only for what you use, not for how many users you have.

Choose NexTec as your Acumatica partner

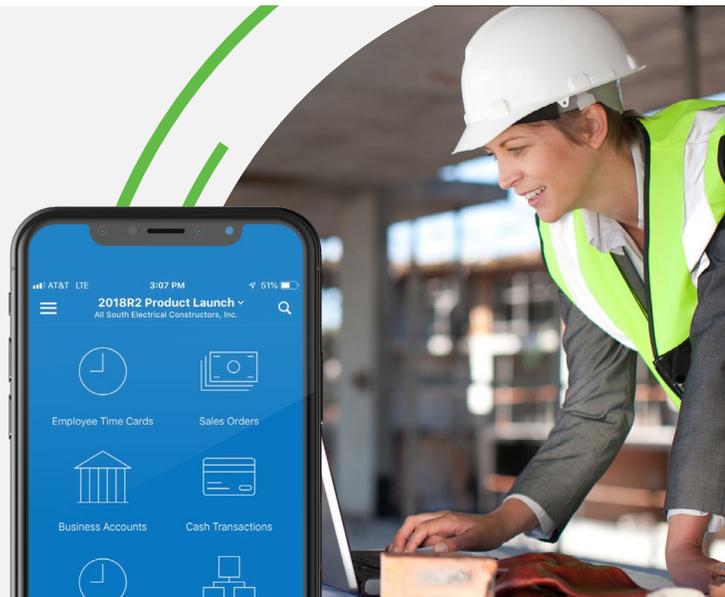
NexTec is a gold-certified Acumatica implementation partner with more than 26 years of experience in the consulting industry.

We take a holistic approach in integrating the many moving parts of your business to remove much of the manual guesswork and improve your ROI. As leaders in our industry, we bring a unique multi-fold advantage to our construction clients that allows us to:

- » Focus on giving you the best software options
- » Leverage our experience in ERP and the industries we serve
- » Support your key business initiatives
- » Drive tangible growth across your business

Manage Your Business Better with Acumatica Construction Edition

CONTACT US FOR A DEMO



Contact us to learn more:
844-466-8477

info@nextecgroup.com
NexTecGroup.com

About the NexTec Group

NexTec Group is a national consulting firm with 26 years' experience implementing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Business Intelligence (BI) and cloud software solutions. With deep industry experience in construction, NexTec understands the challenges construction companies face and provides solutions tailored to their specific needs.

As a gold-certified Acumatica partner, NexTec has one of the largest Acumatica teams in North America and has been implementing ERP for customers since 2015.

