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Features of Internet-based Services for Construction

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FEATURES OF INTERNET-BASED SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION

STRATEGIES

The convergence of information services, communication and computing functionality in the Web technologies allows practitioners in construction to perform a Web-based project management over the Internet. A number of construction companies all over the world adopted this technology either because they realized its competitive advantages or they are being forced to adopt it by their clients. To be competitive and profitable in the 21st century, more construction companies should try to embrace the Internet technologies. When a construction company commits to adopt a Web-based project management system, there are two possible strategies that the company can choose in developing the system: in-house development or outsourcing this activity to a professional consultant.

Regarding the first option, construction firms that decide on in-house development should keep in mind the substantial financial, technical and human resources necessary to develop and to maintain the system. The company can host a Web server internally and customize its functionality to fulfill the corporate needs and those of the project operations. Also commercially available Web-enabled and Web-based project management software can be customized into proprietary systems. Examples of this software include Microsoft Project 98®, Primavera Sure Track Project Manager® with its Webster for Primavera®, Prolog Manager™ and Prolog WebSite™ from Meridian Project Systems™, AEC Connect, WebProject™, and TeamFlow® from CFM Inc.

Regarding the second option, useful for companies with limited resources to develop their own Web-based project management systems, outsourcing strategies provide a variety of options. Consultants may be hired to build a web page to fulfill the company's Internet advertising needs, solicit job applications, or to accomplish comprehensive project management over the Internet. Many Internet-based information services for the construction industry provide a capability to build one's own free limited web page residing on the provider's server, e.g. with ConstructionNet and AEC Info™. Fee-based project management services such as AdvantageNet™ from Emerging Solutions, Project Center® from EVOLV, Active Project™ from Framework Technologies, and e-Builder™





from MP Interactive have established Extranet project services. This kind of service offers additional utility through maintaining and upgrading the originally developed system.

COMPARISON MATRICES

We provide three comparison matrices of features provided by Internet-based services. They are available in HTML format and PDF format.

- Information Services for Construction. | [PDF](#) |
- Web-based Project Management. | [PDF](#) |
- Web-enabled Project Management Software. | [PDF](#) |

The matrices are intended to help a construction firm determine the optimal service for its needs. The matrices are developed based on the relevant feature criteria in selecting the service. The matrices will be continuously updated as new features and new services emerge.

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REVIEWERS

Peer reviewed as an emerging construction technology

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