

Collaboration and reporting tools help USS Cal Builders save time and reduce risk



Established in 1984 and based in Southern California, USS Cal Builders, Inc. is a general contracting/construction management firm specializing in new construction, modernization, design build, infrastructure, seismic retrofits, and construction management.

Since its inception, USS Cal Builders has successfully completed over a billion dollars of publicly funded and privately owned projects and employs more than 300 highly qualified and seasoned professionals, some possessing over 30 years of construction experience.

Alone in Accounting

In 1993, the contractor chose American Contractor as its software to manage construction accounting but outgrew the solution as the business required more options for reporting and efficient payroll and needed a broader system. According to Monica Plata, Accounting Manager at USS Cal Builders, "Only the accounting staff was able to use American Contractor because it offered limited functionality on the project management side. So only accountants had access to our information and were often hunted down for answers, data, documents, and so on. It was very time-consuming."

Knowing that a unified software system would allow everyone on the team to collaborate more easily and work with the same information, USS Cal Builders decided to move to Vista™ by Viewpoint.

Manage Payroll and Reporting with Ease

Vista™ by Viewpoint is a complete suite of integrated applications for accounting, human resources, project management, and operations, service management, and content management. It's built on the Microsoft .NET framework and SQL server database for flexibility and scalability.

"We use the Viewpoint solution to save time!" says Plata. "We have so many good reports now and can see job standing, forecasts, and profit – see where every project stands. Not only lots of reports but we have many export options, too, and can see the information in so many ways we prefer."

USS Cal Builders also utilizes Vista to manage payroll. Plata explains: "Payroll is much quicker now; what used to take half a day now only takes an hour. We have lots of different payroll

CUSTOMER OVERVIEW

Contractor:
General Construction

Headquarters:
Stanton, CA

Employees:
160

Viewpoint Customer:
Since 1993



8051 Main St.
Stanton, CA 90680
714.828.4882

rates and use the software to quickly assign templates to jobs, which saves us lots of time. Plus it's easy to adjust numbers to make changes, and easy to interface, especially very user-friendly with Excel for import and export. Once everything is set up and moving, it's so flexible and the imports keep things easy and formatted – it really does pay off and saves us lots of time.”



Beyond the efficient payroll process, Plata appreciates other must-have accounting benefits she finds with Vista: “I really like the great security settings and how the information and reports are easy to access. And compliance is also a big issue for us and the solution helps us tremendously there, too.”

On the Same Page for Productivity

A major improvement that USS Cal Builders has realized by moving to Vista is that accountants and project managers are using the same solution. “We’re now all discussing the same facts, looking at the same data, working from the same page,” explains Plata. “This improves accountability and we have less risk of problems we don’t see, plus we have clear communication because we’re not all exchanging different details drawn from different systems. It’s so valuable.”

The project managers at USS Cal Builders are now updated more quickly and can address issues sooner than before the company was using Vista. Plata says: “With Vista, the project managers have their hands on the information, can do things directly, and find any problem much faster. This frees up a lot of time in the office and in the field, while also allowing more time to review projects for issues, ways to improve, find more profit, et cetera.”

Plata offers her closing opinion to other contractors: “My advice to other American Contractor users looking to make the switch to Vista – or any other contractors, for that matter – is to set realistic expectations of the time commitment required, don’t try to do everything at once, prepare for a learning curve, and know that it will all be worth it once you’re using it and reaping all the functionality the software provides.”

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