As the economy continues to rebound after the global recession, there are both opportunities and challenges for engineering and construction companies.

The opportunities are coming from the emerging markets of Asia, Latin America, India, and Africa, which are experiencing an upswing in construction projects. On the home front, governments are looking to modernize and improve bridges, roads, tunnels, and other public facilities.

As firms pursue new business opportunities, the challenge, as always, is making sure that any new projects brought in are profitable ones. In an industry with thin margins, profitability depends on managing construction projects with financial efficiency and discipline.

Yet, financial control over project management is often more the exception than the rule. At most firms, information is siloed into several databases—and even spreadsheets—throughout the organization. Without access to critical project updates and status reports, firms don’t know where projects stand and how much money has been spent.

At the same time, buildings themselves have become more complex, with sophisticated electrical and mechanical installations and structure systems. New technologies, methodologies, and requirements, such as building information modeling (BIM), NEC3, and lean construction, are changing the way that projects are built.

Not all IT systems have kept up with the evolution of construction technology. Existing on-premise legacy systems don’t have the computing power to handle the new technologies or the capability to scale quickly to take advantage of new business opportunities. As projects become more complicated, with multiple owners and new compliance requirements, legacy systems don’t have the agility to keep pace with these demands.
Financial Control in the Cloud

But technology can become your competitive advantage. Oracle’s Primavera P6 Enterprise Project Portfolio Management (EPPM) Cloud Service is a complete, integrated project execution solution that provides the transparency and visibility critical for first-rate project management. With minimal cost and low risk, the solution provides modern, integrated project management tools and methods to accelerate project delivery, productivity, and success.

Primavera is the recognized leader in project management software, with over 25 years of experience building solutions that help engineering and construction firms manage, control, and deliver projects on time and within budget. Oracle has invested billions in engineering and strategic acquisitions for the most comprehensive portfolio of enterprise-grade cloud computing services. Primavera P6 EPPM Cloud Service helps organizations reimagine business processes, making it possible for engineering and construction firms to:

- Ramp up quickly
- Implement best practices
- Compete more effectively
- Manage risk

Ramp Up Quickly

With Primavera EPPM Cloud Service, organizations can roll out a complete project management system quickly, with unified execution, visibility, and control. The solution easily scales from a single user to tens of thousands. New partners, projects, services, and owners can be brought on board fast—even to remote construction sites.

There’s no costly infrastructure to support, so resources can be invested in growth opportunities—not IT. Oracle provides all the hardware and other infrastructure needed to start using the application right away. Oracle also performs the application and infrastructure upgrades so that you stay current with the latest versions of the software, with no additional upgrade costs.

There’s no need to coordinate software upgrades between vendors, integrate data, or manage disparate security policies. Primavera P6 EPPM Cloud Service has been architected on an open, service-oriented platform and infrastructure to simplify integration needs and lower the total cost of ownership.
Implement Best Practices

Primavera P6 Cloud Service gives organizations access to modern, integrated project management functionality, with industry best practices. Throughout the organization, business processes are optimized and streamlined with consistent, repeatable workflows.

With visibility into all project work, firms can monitor tasks, track schedule and budget updates, and ensure accountability. Information is easily shared among departments, subcontractors, and partners with one version of the truth. In a dynamic environment, managers can see where resources are being used and take action to avoid the conflicts that cause delays.

Project teams stay connected as they move from office to jobsite. Primavera P6 EPPM Cloud Service incorporates the latest social and mobile capabilities, enabling organizations to discover new ways to collaborate and share information within the enterprise—and outside with customers, contractors, and vendors.

Compete More Effectively

Instead of relying on the project delivery methods of the past, firms gain a competitive advantage by leveraging high-productivity project management tools.

Project teams and stakeholders are united through collaboration and strong feedback methods, reducing the risk of cost and schedule overruns. Organizations can deliver projects with greater speed and efficiency. And confidently make—and keep—project commitments.

As firms pursue new business, the solution helps ensure that projects align with strategic corporate objectives. With a consistent overview of the portfolio of projects, managers can communicate project performance to stakeholders. What-if scenario modeling and embedded analytics enable organizations to proactively manage schedules and budgets and ensure that resources are not overextended.

Manage Risk

With every construction project, there’s always the potential for problems. But you can prevent surprises and insulate your organization from risk.

Without the expense of upgrading, organizations gain access to industry-standard risk management and robust reporting and analytics that enable managers to monitor project performance versus plan throughout the project lifecycle. Consistent processes and workflows help ensure that tasks are completed on time.

Even with a diverse array of players, there is a single source of truth, improving communication and collaboration. Team members are empowered to find new ways to deliver projects more efficiently. As a result, there are far fewer issues that could jeopardize project schedules.
Conclusion

Oracle recognizes that the forces reshaping the engineering and construction industry require technology that can meet these demands. Oracle is committed to supporting the industry with innovative solutions, such as Primavera P6 EPPM Cloud Service.