

Better Coordination on Construction Projects Can Improve a Contractor's Profitability

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New data reveals that improving how companies work together onsite can increase schedule and budget reliability and reduce stress for workers

Bedford, Massachusetts and Mountain View, California--(Newsfile Corp. - September 11, 2024) - Nearly all contractors in the U.S. and Canada (98%) have had projects with serious quality issues in the last three years, such as errors, omissions, and rework, according to the latest study released by Dodge Construction Network. Not By Design: The True Cost of Poor Collaboration in Construction SmartMarket Brief, published in partnership with **Dusty Robotics**, examines the causes of these challenges and provides actionable, tactical strategies for improving future project outcomes.

Poor coordination in construction projects leads to significant financial impacts

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Conflict Resolution Is a Critical Skill

The findings show that contractors constantly interact with other companies on their projects, with seventeen daily interactions on average, and nearly half of those interactions (eight on average) involve conflicts. Good conflict resolution is as critical a skill for a construction worker onsite as their technical skills in their trade, but the study suggests that specialty trade contractors, in particular, rarely experience good resolution from these conflicts. Only 38% believe that everyone involved understands what is being communicated, and 48% find that everyone agrees

on the next steps and future actions in most of their conflicts with other companies, a sharp contrast to the general contractors (50% and 69%, respectively).

Improving Multi-Trade Coordination Can Improve Project Performance

Effective coordination among the multiple trade contractors onsite is essential to conflict reduction, and there is still significant room for improvement. In fact, 33% of contractors find that coordination issues on site are the root cause of the construction quality challenges they experience. Coordination issues have a major impact on projects, including challenges with cost performance, labor resource management, schedule compliance, and company profit margin erosion. Such coordination issues lead to an average 9% budget increase and an average of 10% erosion in annual company profit margin.

Contractors face daily interactions that involve conflict, with trade partners feeling that issues remain unresolved.

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Good Collaboration Is at the Heart of a Successful Project

Contractors understand that collaboration is critical to addressing the challenges experienced on construction sites, with 96% agreeing that active collaboration improves projects. However, when six specific approaches to actively fostering collaborative behaviors were tested in the survey, only 18% report using more than three of those measures. Even the two most effective approaches—implementing policies and procedures that promote collaboration and investing in technology that supports collaboration—were only used by 43% and 50%, respectively. This suggests a major opportunity for contractors to actively invest in improving collaboration, especially since those who have already made those investments experience fewer construction quality issues and better conflict resolution, and over 90% of the contractors surveyed want to work with companies they know have made these investments.

Field Professionals Need Better Tools to Drive Coordination

The findings show that only 11% of field personnel report always having access to the information they need about what and where to build on projects. Fewer than one-third of field personnel used BIM for coordination, conveying design intent or clarification during jobsite project team meetings. And currently, 90% of contractors utilize manual means like chalk lines for layout, but strikingly, many are open to a better solution. While automated layout is still an emerging technology, used by only 4% currently, nearly six times as many (34%) would consider using this technology in the future.

Download Not By Design: The True Cost of Poor Collaboration SmartMarket Brief today to get more detailed information on the challenges that contractors experience onsite and the potential solutions they can utilize to address them.

The "Not by Design" report by Dodge Construction Network and Dusty Robotics

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About Dodge Construction Network:

Dodge Construction Network harnesses data, analytics, and industry connections to be the leading source of insights and opportunities in the commercial construction industry. With five trusted solutions-Dodge Construction Central, The Blue Book, Sweets, IMS, and Principia-Dodge connects construction professionals across all stages of the building process. Designed for both small teams and large enterprises, these tools simplify complexity, empowering you to build thriving businesses and communities. With over a century of experience, Dodge Construction Network is the catalyst for modern construction. To learn more, visit **construction.com**.

About Dusty Robotics

Dusty Robotics is the best solution to ensure design integrity in the field through automated layout and a streamlined BIM-to-field process. Dusty delivers a combination of hardware, software, and services that fit seamlessly into existing construction work processes by printing digital models directly on the jobsite floor with 1/16" accuracy based directly on Revit or AutoCAD models. Dusty has enabled contractors to print more than 100 million square feet of layout across thousands of buildings and is trusted by leading general contractors such as Mortenson, McCarthy, and Skanska as well as trade contractors in framing, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing. For more information, please visit **www.dustyrobotics.com**.

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