

SPECIAL SECTION: EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

Construction

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INDUSTRY

REVIEW

FROM PROJECTS TO HEADLINES



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FOR 2004

BEST OF 2003 EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARDS



Construction Executive celebrates its first year of publication with its first-ever Editor's Choice Awards highlighting some of the top products the construction industry saw hit the market in 2003. While space limitations prevent us from paying homage to all the noteworthy new products and innovations introduced in 2003, we proudly present readers with a selection of the Best of 2003—the cream of the crop of this year's technology offerings.

These innovative solutions help to meet the industry's accounting, estimating, project management and job costing needs—to name a few. Designed specifically for the business of construction, these products take into account the budgetary and time demands placed on construction projects and the high degree of coordination required between general contractors, subcontractors and other project stakeholders; and the importance of protecting and sharing critical information across multiple platforms and applications.

In this highly competitive construction market, technology constantly evolves to help construction managers run their businesses more efficiently, more productively and more profitably. The Best of 2003 Editor's Choice Awards recognize solution providers of long-standing companies as well as relative newcomers that define the state-of-the-art in helping contractors maintain and improve the bottom line.

To recognize these companies for their contributions to making the day-to-day operations of the U.S. construction industry more efficient and more profitable, *Construction Executive's* editors and staff present the Best of 2003 Editor's Choice Awards. We invite you to review this special section, we call the Contractors' Holiday Wish List, dedicated to these prestigious award winners to learn more about how your construction business can profit from these solutions.

As always, the *Construction Executive* team welcomes your comments and appreciates your ongoing support.

Lisa A. Nardone, *Editor*

Prolog Manager 7.0



Prolog® Manager 7.0, from Meridian Project Systems (MPS), is a powerful project management software application that provides total project control for large corporate real estate owners, construction companies, and architecture and engineering firms. MPS solutions can be deployed in a self-hosted or application service provider (ASP) environment.

Prolog Manager automates all aspects of the construction project lifecycle, from project design to close out. Used by global and national enterprises and large regional-based organizations, Prolog Manager leads the market among general contractors with more than \$250 million in volume. (Source: *2002 Information Technology Survey for the Construction Industry*, Construction Financial Management Association.) Prolog provides in-depth functionality in the areas of purchasing management, cost control and document management.

PROLOG MANAGER:

- reduces project schedules by collaborating more effectively with project teams;
- manages multiple projects in one database;
- generates summary reports and queries across all projects;
- allows global viewing of all company projects to find trends and identify problems early;
- allows quick decision-making using accurate corporate information;
- standardizes business processes across all projects;
- audits projects for deficiencies and risk exposure;
- tracks key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor all levels of company profitability, efficiency and performance; and
- improves document control by streamlining the review process, easily tracking revisions and storing master files.

Meridian Project Systems

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New version 7.0 includes enhancements based on customer feedback. These enhancements significantly increase Prolog's ability to handle data from multiple complex projects and to generate new business intelligence reduces project risk and improves financial performance for customers.

Specifically, Prolog Manager 7.0 enhances the project team's ability to successfully manage and track data on multiple projects in real-time. New features include an Executive Dashboard Module that easily tracks key performance indicators across all projects in the organization. With this capability, users can identify problems before they impact project delivery performance or the company's bottom line. Dashboard monitors all levels of company profitability, efficiency and performance.

Prolog Manager 7.0 allows users to improve service levels by quickly respond-

ing to a project owner's reporting requirements with comprehensive, visual representations of performance. Multiple levels of metrics can be configured and customized, so company performance can be tracked at the corporate level, project team level or individual level.

Other key enhancements include:

- **Prolog Today:** Quickly view and manage selected projects or project groups from one central location.
- **Portfolio Manager:** Improved project groupings allow user-specific sorting of projects by region and division.
- **Project Specific Templates:** Tailor letter templates to specific projects and/or by market or industry sector, or by multiple company standards.
- **Improved Wizards:** Access more options and leverage existing queries with a more user-friendly and streamlined wizard process.

Mission Australia

CASE STUDY

Based in Brisbane, Australia, MULTI SPAN Australia Pty Ltd is a family-owned building development company with in-house architects, engineers, draftspersons and project managers. A globally active company, MULTI SPAN provides services for commercial and industrial building projects and averages annual project turnover of \$25 million.

Each MULTI SPAN project manager runs approximately five simultaneous projects, using a different method for project control. Recognizing that standardization on a centralized project management system would increase project and individual efficiency, MULTI SPAN evaluated project management systems for two years, without much success. It was looking for one package that would encompass document management, procurement and site management. Prolog provided MULTI SPAN complete control of these processes coupled with customization unparalleled by other systems.


According to Martin Hood, construction manager, MULTI Span sought a product that would have the ability "to fully customize to suit the individual operations of each client company." He says Prolog provides time savings and proficiency, streamlining the company's project management efforts.

One of the first areas the Prolog software addressed was invoice management. In order to accommodate the extraordinary volume, MULTI SPAN implemented a bridge program that uploads approved invoices and automatically imports them into the company's accounting system, reducing the time to enter this information and ensuring its accuracy. The bridge program eliminates double entry and allows MULTI SPAN to run projects exclusively with Prolog rather than its accounting package.

Throughout the various stages of project management, Prolog helped the firm increase time savings, individual efficiency and information reliability across all MULTI SPAN projects.

"The standardized operating parameters and complete up-to-date information in Prolog provides our customers with more professional and advanced project management methods that better meet their facility development needs," Hood says.

YOUR PROJECT SUCCESS IS IN THE DETAILS.

Project management software with all the power your construction business needs to succeed, at a price that won't blow your bottom line. That's what you get with Prolog® software from Meridian Project Systems. Stay on top of project details at all times to reduce risk and increase profits. Allow project team members to easily manage documents and costs, along with daily construction activity. Consolidate multiple spreadsheets, word processing files, forms, drawings, and other important documents in one, easily accessible database. And keep it all under control with comprehensive project histories that ensure even the smallest details will never slip through the cracks. All with Prolog. 

- Scheduling
- Purchasing
- Cost Control
- Collaboration
- Site Management



[For a detailed Prolog ROI analysis, call 1-800-850-2660]