CONSTRUCTION GIANTS ABLE TO DRIVE PROJECTS MORE EFFICIENTLY

COCKRAM

Customer:
Cockram Construction

Business Issues:
Cockram's 20 year old in-house job management system was slow and inefficient.

Solution:
CostCon personalised a robust, user-friendly forecasting job management system for Cockram.

Outcome:
Cockram is saving time and money and increasing visibility and efficiency.

COSTCON™
BUILDING SOFTWARE

About Cockram Construction

Cockram are a privately-owned construction company of over 500 employees with projects spanning throughout Australia, Asia, and America.

Cockram have recently started construction projects in Christchurch, New Zealand to contribute to the earthquake damaged city's rebuild. "Although it's not a huge part of our business, we saw it as an important area of opportunity," says Cockram Construction Australian General Manager, Darren Milne. Cockram have partnered with Leighs Construction to build the Burwood Hospital.

Back to the drawing board

Cockram Construction had been utilising its own in-house project control system for the past 20 years. However, this product had become inefficient and was very slow for the steadily growing company. "We were having to put a lot of resources into its maintenance," says Darren. "We made a decision that it was time to change from that and go with a recognised industry package that was developed and maintained and supported outside of our business."

Perfecting the design

As a system that would be used by over 150 employees, Cockram were driven to provide their team with a high-quality management system that was reliable and easy to use.

Darren explains that it was important for Cockram to not only select a quality product but also employ a company with personable staff. CostCon satisfied both requirements.

"We liked the CostCon product because of its ease of use and intuitiveness. We also felt that it would be an easy transition from our existing product," says Darren. "We also found the CostCon people to be fantastic to deal with. Very helpful, user friendly, open to assisting us to get some additional functionality that we needed. We got a lot of confidence from them."

Darren concluded that out of the shortlist, CostCon was the company closest to satisfying all their business requirements. "They committed to work with us to help us develop some functionality, and enabled us to do forecasting to help us to properly manage projects. So it was a fantastic result," says Darren.

CostCon took Cockram through a detailed trial period as it was essential that the product they developed delivered on usability and efficiency. "It was very important to us that the transition from our existing product over to this one was easy for our users. Because CostCon had developed some of that functionality for us, it was very important for us to trial it and make sure we were 100% confident that that functionality would work properly." The extensive trial period ended with Cockram signing up to CostCon permanently, extremely satisfied with the quality of the system.

Reaping the benefits

Cockram's 150 project management users transitioned effortlessly from their old system. "It's very easy to use, so training has been very simple and people feel comfortable with it pretty quickly," says Darren. CostCon's support staff have also been responsive and effective, helping to make the transition process easy and giving Cockram better continuity.

The construction company has also seen an increase in efficiency around the implementation of the new system, significantly improving down time for staff. "We're definitely saving time. We've now eliminated those maintenance resources our previous system was costing us and the efficiency of use is much better because CostCon works much quicker," says Darren. "Implementing CostCon has significantly increased our data integrity, which means we do not have to spend time analysing and checking data accuracy."

Costcon worked closely with Cockram to seamlessly integrate other legacy databases. CostCon wrote API interfaces which have made this process accurate and far more efficient for the everyday tasks of the company.

Because CostCon and Cockram had to work closely to develop, trial and implement the system, a strong relationship between the two companies was imperative. Darren says, "The people at CostCon are so professional and really easy to deal with. Their implementation people and their developers who worked with us on the additional functionality have just been fantastic. I can't speak highly enough of them."

The long term benefits for Cockram implementing CostCon is that they're going to dramatically improve productivity of their project staff. CostCon will help them to process tasks faster, automate more functions and ultimately reduce their overall business risk by having a detailed overview of where their money's going. Over time, having greater visibility of job costing and accounting information will contribute to Cockram's ability to grow to as a company.

About Costcon

CostCon New Zealand Limited was formed to market and develop financial systems for managing projects and contract work. Its flagship product is CostCon.

CostCon has been used by leaders in the building and civil contracting markets to drive productivity in project costing and job management. We have a growing customer base across a wide range of sectors; residential and commercial building, civil contracting, associated trade subcontractors and jobbing manufacturers.

The directors and staff at CostCon have a strong practical background in the financial accounting, project management, quantity surveying in Pacific Basin countries. We are able to work with your management, project and accounting staff to implement the system.

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