

Benchmark Estimating Introduces Custom Product Integration With On Center Software

Integrated Software Solution For Takeoffs and Estimating

Benchmark Estimating announces a new custom integration with On Center Software's estimating software, On-Screen Takeoff®. This new software integration allows Benchmark users to import takeoff data from On-Screen Takeoff into Benchmark Estimating software, providing a custom solution for Benchmark and On Center Software users.

This integration provides both Benchmark and On Center Software users with a more specific estimating solution that is designed to reduce takeoff time and increase accuracy. Benchmark Director Rob MacDonald states, "We are very excited about our partnership with On Center Software. Many of our clients have inquired about digital takeoff solutions, and we are certain that this resultant integration will be of great benefit to them." Benefits to clients will be instantly apparent as they start completing takeoffs with the On-Screen Takeoff/Benchmark Estimating integration. According to Angelo Castelli, Director of Business Development for On Center Software, "The combination of the industry leading On-Screen Takeoff and Benchmark Estimating will provide a new level of productivity and efficiency for estimators everywhere. The flexibility of both the Benchmark system and On-Screen Takeoff will be a key advantage for estimators and project managers."

The Benchmark/On Center Software custom integration is currently in development. Once it is complete, Benchmark will be in the position to offer On-Screen Takeoff as a product for purchase, in addition to

the Benchmark Estimating software line. On-Screen Takeoff training will also be available for clients who purchase On Center Software's takeoff software through Benchmark.

About Benchmark

Founded in 1996 by its current Director, Rob MacDonald <http://benchmarkestimating.com/about/management-team>, Benchmark Software is a privately owned, family-run software provider with offices in the Europe and Australia. Benchmark's goal is to provide construction professionals with a powerful, yet easy-to-use estimating system. Along with Benchmark Estimating <http://www.benchmarkestimating.co.uk> in the United Kingdom and MacDonald International <http://www.miengineers.com> in Australia, Benchmark Estimating sells and supports software in Europe and also provides specialist estimating consulting services.

About On Center Software, Inc.

Located in The Woodlands, Texas, On Center Software, Inc. is a privately held company providing software and training to construction-industry professionals. The company's mission is to transform the estimating, takeoff and production-tracking experiences for construction-industry professionals by developing and supporting innovative, practical, comprehensive software solutions that turn winning bids into profitable projects. The On Center Software line of products includes Quick Bid, On-Screen Takeoff®, Digital Production Control™ and the Digital Takeoff Table®2.

Construction Spending Rises 0.4 Percent In November For Third Straight Gain, But Industry Remains "Fragile," Says AGC Chief Economist

Power Construction, Residential Improvements Offset Declines in Most Private Categories; Public Construction Continues to Rise but Change in Congress; State and Local Budget Woes Augur Downturn Ahead

Construction spending increased by 0.4 percent in November, the third straight rise in the total, the Associated General Contractors of America noted on January 3, 2011 in an analysis of new Census Bureau data. Private residential and public construction each gained 0.7 percent compared with October's totals, while private nonresidential construction edged down 0.1 percent.

"It is heartening to see three increases in a row for the total," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "But most categories showed more of a seesaw pattern over the past three months, indicating that construction spending remains fragile at best."

Simonson noted that the strongest category appears to be power construction, which has climbed for four consecutive months from a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$75.7 billion in July to \$85.7 billion in November. He added that power construction will be helped in 2011 by extension of tax credits for building wind and other renewable power facilities. Residential improvements appear to have rebounded for the past three months also, up \$15 billion since August. Simonson cautioned, however, that

the Census Bureau often makes large revisions—down or up—to this estimate.

Public construction reached a 16-month high of \$318.5 billion, but is likely to decrease in 2011, Simonson observed. Major federal funding for military base realignment, Gulf Coast hurricane work and stimulus projects is expected to taper off in the second half of the year. Meanwhile, the new Congress and many governors have signaled that they intend to hold down spending on infrastructure among other categories, the economist noted.

Association officials urged leaders of the 112th Congress, be sworn in on January 5, 2011, to maintain a commitment to transportation and water infrastructure. Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer, noted that proposed rule changes being considered by the incoming Congress jeopardize highway, bridge and transit investments. "Deferring needed improvements to our aging transportation network will undermine business activity today while saddling future taxpayers with ever-larger maintenance and repair costs," Sandherr said.