

The Los Angeles County MTA Selects InQuest Construction to Manage Major Construction Projects Online



Background

In late 2001 the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LAC MTA) began the search for a collaborative project management software system to streamline over \$1.5 billion in overall construction. Specific initiatives included the design, construction and maintenance of two light rail and two bus fixed guideway lines. To ensure that the selected solution could meet the LAC MTA's complex needs, a detailed analysis and evaluation process was conducted. Requirements included a system that could be accessed over the web, link existing LAC MTA construction systems, view and redline CAD drawings and other file formats through the design, review, submittals and change control processes. In addition, the deployment and administration of the system to support multiple employees and external vendors had to be extremely economical. Of the twenty-eight systems evaluated, only InQuest Construction met all of the LAC MTA's comprehensive list of requirements.

As a collaborative project solution, the LAC MTA will be able to use InQuest Construction on all asset or infrastructure initiatives, across all lifecycle stages, from design and engineering through construction and during operations. Additionally, InQuest Construction provides a secure, web-based, scalable platform for rapid implementation and for complete management of all construction processes based on specific industry-related workflow steps. It delivers project teams a collaborative solution that provides all users secure access to the most recent project information for the duration of the project. In addition, it provides workflow functionality and Desktop Integration Tools for a seamless work environment.

Case Study At A Glance

The Company:

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority serves as the transportation planner, coordinator, designer, builder and operator for the Los Angeles County transit infrastructure - one of the largest in the nation.

The Challenge:

To find an internally deployed, Internet-based product that would enable the LAC MTA construction team to streamline the management of large amounts of information, interdependent tasks and complex workflows across multiple construction projects.

Key requirements included viewing and markup of CAD drawings as well as automating the review, submittal and change control processes.

InQuest Technologies Solution Used:

InQuest Construction

The Results:

Increased project communication and productivity, easy access and archiving of historical data, reduced paperwork, simultaneously informed project team members, reduced paperwork, shortened review and comment timelines and a "smarter" decision-making processes.

Customer Since:

2001

Benefits

InQuest Construction was purchased by the LAC MTA in December 2001 and implemented on the first major construction project in February 2002. The benefits of InQuest Construction were visible almost immediately to the MTA team. "InQuest Construction has increased project communication exponentially," said Dennis Partridge, Manager, Change Control and Construction Systems, LAC MTA. When using InQuest Construction, all team members are immediately informed of status, decisions, open issues and concerns through the notification features of system. Now, no matter what discipline, project team members can utilize this knowledge when making decisions or passing on information in meetings or in other communications. "Another major benefit is the greatly reduced time required to coordinate reviews and comments of various project documents," said Partridge. "The ability to reference historical decision and discussion data can save countless hours in file searching and greatly mitigates the loss of project knowledge when key personnel leave the project. We expect to have the ability to sit in a meeting with the contractor or other party and log in and easily pull up a two year old directive documents to make a point."

Prior to the acquisition of InQuest Construction, all documents were distributed to the LAC MTA team in paper form. In cases where review and comments of documents were required this process took weeks and sometimes months. "InQuest Construction has put us in a nearly paperless environment, greatly speeding up the review and comment steps as well as saving time conducting manual document searches," commented Partridge. This new electronic capability provides a higher level of project control and improving the timeliness of information for all team members. The result is fewer problems that can compound and result in costly schedule delays.

Next Steps

Use of InQuest Construction has been "a major step toward our goal of increasing productivity and improving project decision making by having all project players on the same electronic page," said Partridge. "Next steps include seamlessly linking our key project and document control systems to InQuest Construction and the ultimate adoption of electronic signature technology."

Currently, the LAC MTA is using InQuest Construction for the Universal Fare Collection System project that will introduce Smart Cards and Media Readers across multiple agencies' multi-modal public transportation systems. Implementation of the system is also beginning on four other new major projects that will total over \$1.7B. When fully implemented it is expected that InQuest Construction will be collectively used on a regular basis by over 500 LAC MTA project team members from numerous locations for projects that extend to at least December 2008.

InQuest Technologies Corporate Overview

InQuest Technologies, the leading provider of Infrastructure Lifecycle Management (ILM) solutions, provides companies with technology and services to lower operating costs and accelerate growth by optimizing the management of their infrastructure, from design and engineering, through construction and during on-going operations. Leading international organizations such as Staples, Verizon, Hertz, Kaiser Permanente, LAC MTA and NBC have chosen InQuest Technologies solutions for an immediate impact on their operations and bottom lines. InQuest Technologies has helped these companies leverage the power of the Internet to transform the way that they design, engineer and manage their infrastructure.

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