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TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS ADVANCING CONSTRUCTION

DEEP DIVE

CONTROLLING CONSTRUCTION COSTS BEFORE MARGINS SLIP

Construction margins can decline before a monthly financial report reveals the issue. Payroll costs, vendor invoices and field changes do not always reach accounting at the same time, creating gaps between project activity and financial records. A job costing system needs to connect each cost to the estimate quickly so managers can spot changes and respond while the work is still ongoing.

The first test is whether the software can keep estimated and actual costs aligned without requiring staff to maintain separate spreadsheets. Contractors may manage a few dozen cost lines or several thousand, but every labor charge and purchase still needs to be assigned to the correct code and appear in reports that show variances and projected costs to complete. When estimating and accounting are not connected, reporting becomes a task of reconciling records. Miscoded expenses and unbilled scope changes may remain unnoticed until much later.

> **A-Systems' JobView transforms estimates into budgets, tracks costs from payroll and payables, forecasts variances and supports change-order review.**

Forecasting needs careful attention because a project can appear profitable overall while one phase is already under pressure. Management needs to understand whether a variance comes from an incorrect entry, lower labor efficiency, a missed commitment or additional work that requires a change order. The system should identify these issues early and provide enough detail for accounting teams to review and update the records. A forecast that cannot be linked back to specific cost codes provides a warning but little insight into what needs to be addressed.

Reporting is only valuable when accounting teams can create it without spending hours on extra work. Many construction firms rely on bookkeepers who manage invoices, payroll and payments every day but are not responsible for building complex financial models. When routine reporting depends on specialized skills, it adds cost and creates a reliance on a small number of people. Effective software takes care of much of the accounting process behind the scenes, identifies possible posting mistakes and gives managers clear job details without requiring repeated manual corrections.

Implementation and support can influence whether a system delivers value after deployment. Payroll imports and remote timesheets can reduce duplicate work, but only if job numbers and cost codes are transferred correctly. Teams need training that helps them work confidently with the system instead of depending on ongoing outside assistance. Support is most valuable when teams face issues, from incorrect payroll periods to last-minute report changes before a meeting. Without timely answers, even a capable system can remain unused when it is needed.

Cost should be evaluated from a long-term perspective rather than just the initial purchase price. Contractors need to understand how licenses are structured, what training involves and which employees require full system access. The choice between desktop software and hosted solutions also affects ongoing expenses. A lower upfront cost can change significantly once implementation, reporting requirements, data conversion and support are included. The real measure is not only what the software costs to purchase but how effectively it helps keep project finances under control.

A-Systems is a strong option for contractors looking for detailed job costing without adding unnecessary complexity for accounting teams. A-Systems' JobView transforms estimates into budgets, tracks costs from payroll and payables, forecasts variances and supports change-order review. The platform also includes construction accounting capabilities such as certified payroll, AIA-style billing and electronic data imports. Built-in training, an AI help bot, direct phone support and customer-requested report adjustments help improve everyday usability. Desktop and cloud-hosted versions provide flexibility in deployment, while concurrent-seat licensing helps manage software costs. For contractors that prioritize accessible support and accurate cost visibility, A-Systems provides a practical solution.

A-Systems

Customer-Driven Simplicity That Powers Smarter Construction Accounting

Construction accounting is never simple, but the software behind it should be. For nearly five decades, A-Systems has helped construction contractors simplify one of the industry's most demanding financial processes through JobView, its comprehensive construction accounting solution.

Arnold S. Grundvig, Jr., President

Designed around real contractor workflows and refined through ongoing customer feedback, JobView makes sophisticated job cost accounting accessible to businesses of all sizes. Rather than forcing contractors to adapt to rigid, general-purpose accounting systems, A-Systems continually refines the platform to fit the realities of the construction industry, combining automation, practical workflows and responsive support to help contractors spend less time on administration and more time managing projects.

"We're here to solve problems, not create them. We just take good care of our people," says Arnold S. Grundvig, Jr., president of A-Systems.

Turning Complex Job Costing into Everyday Confidence

Every construction project begins with an estimate, and JobView turns that estimate into a working budget that drives every stage of the project. As purchases are made, payroll is processed and subcontractors are paid, every transaction is tracked against the appropriate cost code, giving contractors an accurate picture of project performance.

Beyond recording financial transactions, JobView keeps a constant watch on estimated and actual costs, allowing contractors to spot potential budget overruns early, correct bookkeeping mistakes and capture change orders before missed billing affects profitability.

Seeing estimated and actual costs side by side gives project teams a clear picture of how every job is performing. That visibility helps them spot small issues before they turn into costly problems, respond quickly to changing conditions and make informed decisions while work is still underway.

Behind the scenes, JobView takes care of many of the routine accounting tasks that would otherwise consume valuable time. It enables entry-level bookkeepers to produce the detailed job cost reports project managers and executives rely on without requiring advanced accounting expertise. Built-in safeguards help prevent common posting errors while JobView's payroll system provides the reports required for Federal and State compliance and integrate directly with job costing. Third-party payroll integration is also available for businesses that prefer to use an outside provider, while electronic timesheet integrations eliminate duplicate data entry and help keep financial records accurate and up to date.

The impact can be significant. One contractor that switched to JobView from another accounting system had an accounting department of eleven people managing manual processes and spreadsheet-based workflows. As those tasks became automated, the team was reduced first to eight employees and eventually to five, while improving financial oversight. The customer later remarked that the resulting labor savings effectively paid the cost of the software every week, 52 times a year. Every cent saved went to the bottom line as increased profit.

Getting started is equally straightforward. With more than 80 built-in training videos, an extensive help library and an AI-powered Help Bot, users can quickly find the guidance they need. Instead of charging by the hour, A-Systems provides training until customers are comfortable using the platform, supporting long-term success from day one.

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A Customer-First Philosophy That Lasts

Customer feedback has shaped JobView since the beginning. Conversations with contractors regularly lead to new features, integrations and usability improvements, allowing the platform to evolve alongside the changing needs of the construction industry.

That same mindset carries through the business. Straightforward pricing, flexible licensing and nearly five decades of debt-free operations help customers control costs instead of adding to them.

The company is also growing through flexible partnerships with CPA firms, tailoring each relationship to the firm's preferred level of involvement rather than following a one-size-fits-all model. Along with client relationships that often span more than forty years, the approach reflects a company built on responsiveness and long-term trust.

After nearly five decades, A-Systems remains guided by a simple belief: construction accounting software should make contractors' work easier, not more complicated. That belief continues to shape JobView, giving construction businesses greater financial control while helping projects stay on track.