



PHOTO: WARCHIV / ISTOCK / GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Opinions expressed are those of the advertisers.

The field is moving fast to unlock the next generation of construction capabilities.

# Transformations in CPM Software

Learn how to help your team conquer the latest technology developments

By Jennie Morton

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- ◆ Insights From CPM Thought Leaders
- ◆ Subcontractors and Sustainability Goals
- ◆ The Secret to Software Productivity
- ◆ Selecting CPM Software



# Shifting Projects Into the Fast Lane: Insights From CPM Thought Leaders

**The world of construction performance management (CPM) software can feel like jumping on a moving train.** Tools are quickly transforming to reach the next level of innovation and efficiency. Part of this evolution is moving away from cumbersome spreadsheets and time-intensive processes by embracing fully digitized solutions. Sustainability metrics also require features that can document and monitor green building practices, such as energy, waste and responsible materials. Three industry experts share insights on how the latest iterations of CPM software are shifting construction projects into the fast lane.



**Jonathan Stewart, Global Senior Director, Program Controls, Hill International:** The demand for real-time

data has led to the development of CPM software that can provide instant updates and insights, enabling better project control and decision-making. In the past, project managers had to rely on static reports and outdated information, which often led to delays and costly mistakes. Today, instant access to

real-time information is paramount for everything from budgets and schedules to design changes and procurement status.

Another influential factor is the growing complexity of construction projects. Design-build megaprojects, for example, involve intricate coordination among various stakeholders, including architects, engineers, contractors and subcontractors. Efficiently managing large-scale projects requires advanced software that can streamline communication, automate tasks and ensure all parties are on the same page. This complexity has prompted software developers to create more sophisticated and integrated solutions that cater to the specific needs of these projects.



**Christi Hurelle, Senior Technical Manager, CM West, AtkinsRéalis:** CPM software continues to

evolve dynamically with few instructions or advanced warning. Today's expectation is "on-the-fly adaptability" while sustaining productivity. But let's not forget that users are still in charge

of driving change and innovation.

We've all had "that" platform we gave up quickly because it had too many clicks or crashes. The user experience and interface are still essential, whether it's an in-house or out-of-the-box solution. Don't overlook the power of simplicity, customization and stability. Technological advances that faithfully meet customer needs are what wins users early and converts them into platform champions.



**Tommy Linstroth, CEO, Green Badger:**

The industry is also getting younger in some respects; the newer generations of men and women who grew up with technology are now managers and expect the conveniences of easy-to-use software. Their demands, in part, are driving the development of best-in-class features.

While AI is becoming a factor, it's still very early and could be risky for broad AI/ML in critical building applications. However, keep an eye on AI/ML in CPM software as standards and reliability make fast improvements. ♦

## How Can We Get Subcontractors to Help With Our Sustainability Efforts?

By Tommy Linstroth, CEO, Green Badger

**It's a question the Green Badger team hears a lot.** For general contractors managing LEED or other sustainable certifications, the answer is simple but often hard to orchestrate without the right processes in place. First, set expectations up front early and clearly. Laying out exactly what responsibilities teams have, when deadlines must be reached, and what happens if goals are not met is the best way to prepare yourself for success. However, communicating

regularly and monitoring progress is where the actual work gets done.

The easiest way to collaborate effectively is by automating tedious manual processes and using time-saving software like Green Badger. You can establish expectations with prebuilt submittal cover sheets, auto-populate product data like EPDs and HPDs, track needed documentation, deliver reports and update all teams about progress. Green Badger is trusted by



Frequent communication helps coordinate subcontractors.

hundreds of project teams to measurably cut costs as well as eliminate headaches trying to coordinate with subs. ♦



## The Secret to Improving Productivity With Any CM/PM Software

By Christina Hurelle, AtkinsRéalis, Senior Technical Manager of CM West

**Does using CM/PM software feel overwhelming?** Whether you have client-owned or out-of-the-box software, there's always a learning curve with quirks and workarounds. But here's the secret—it doesn't matter what software you use if your team has structure and effective communication.

### Identify a Software Champion.

Who on your team has a knack for tech? Ideally, it's a mid-level up-and-comer who wants a task leader role. Empower them as the go-to person who learns the platform and provides on-call support for the whole team.

### Train All Users on the Project

**Team.** But skip the marathon training sessions. Instead, training is a live demo. Have the champion walk through everything from log-in through menus and workflows to uploads.

**Use the Built-In Workflows.** Most platforms make it easy to handle document approvals, which saves hours of time when the team feels confident with this feature. No more digging for "that one email."

### Dedicate a Part-Time IT Resource.

Need to add metadata tags or work through user access issues? A responsive IT resource is a must, someone with authority and knowledge to keep users

going. Aim for 12 to 24 hours to resolve most issues.

Setting a team up for success helps everyone embrace the inevitable software upgrades. This is where the synergy of a champion, trained team and IT resource really shines. Your team will be empowered to quickly learn new features and keep submittal and RFI approvals flowing, not slowing. ♦

*Christi Hurelle has 14 years of engineering experience, including CM and QA during all phases of construction up to \$38 million. She manages the U.S. West region of AtkinsRéalis' CM practice.*



## Three Considerations for Selecting CPM Software

By Jonathan Stewart, Global Senior Director, Program Controls, Hill International

**Implementing project management software and systems that integrate scheduling,** cost control, document management and collaboration tools into a singular platform is the objective of most construction organizations. Successful PM/CM solutions provide data analytics that can unlock insights that enable better decision-making and performance improvements over the life of a project. For example, digital twin capabilities using BIM modeling and advanced project visualization support coordination with both external and internal stakeholders and eliminate non-value-added meetings and extra-neous coordination efforts.

There is some basic groundwork that will help ensure your organization makes the right software choice.

By following these simple steps, you'll be prepared to choose the offering that best fits your programs and projects.

1. Establish clear goals and objectives for what your platform needs to achieve.
2. Set a realistic budget for your scope, otherwise changes to your PM/CM solution mid-implementation can hold your organization back by impacting cost and schedule.
3. Match skillsets with needs, establish accountability and be ready to challenge stakeholders.

To achieve these and other benefits, owners should find partners who specialize in developing and implementing advanced systems. At a minimum, software providers should

be able to deliver strategic guidance on project selection, sequencing and optimization to align with long-term goals; provide financial expertise; integrate advanced technologies like IoT, AI and automation into construction processes; and advise on sustainable construction practices.

By having clear expectations for your software and choosing the right partner for your needs, your organization will be ready to make the most of your new PM/CM tools. ♦

*Hill International Global Senior Director, Program Controls Jonathan Stewart is a detail-oriented leader with nearly 30 years of experience transforming operational departments and projects by driving efficiency, accountability and cost controls.*

# HILL

## International

### DELIVERING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF CHANGE



Hill International is built on nearly 50 years of program, project, and construction management and advisory experience. Since the inception of our company, Hill has focused exclusively on managing owner risk. We provide our clients with the actionable intelligence they need to make informed decisions, identify risks, and address challenges before they can impact progress.



Gebze Data Center, Istanbul, Turkey



Phoenix Sky Harbor Sky Train, Phoenix, AZ



WSF Electrification GEC, WA



Foothill Extension, Pasadena, CA



Major Transmission Line Investment Program, CA



Scudder Falls Bridge Replacement, PA

Program Management | Project Management | Construction Management  
Project Management Oversight | Advisory | Management Consulting | Facilities Management

[www.hillintl.com](http://www.hillintl.com) | 800.283.4088