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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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EMBRACING THE CHANGE
HOW A.I. IS SHAPING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

I find myself resistant to change, as typical accountants sometimes do. The adage, "If it ain't broke," quickly comes to mind when the thought about changing processes and procedures comes into play. Unfortunately, if we are unwilling or too inflexible to change, we will simply be left behind.

The construction industry is one of the few that are behind the curve when it comes to adaptions such as implementation of artificial intelligence on the jobsite. If we put aside our bias for a few minutes, we can learn several ways in which *change* can be less intimidating. Increases in efficiency and productivity and reduction in errors are three ways in which artificial intelligence is paving the way for the construction industry.

Project scheduling software can predict outcomes on millions of alternatives for project layout, planning, and optimization. Taking the human component out completely will not yield the end results that owners and architects require so the fear of lost jobs should not be a concern. On the contrary, by utilizing software such as ALICE (https://alicetechnologies.com/), contractors can feel confident their planning is as efficient as possible, which would allow them to complete more jobs in the same time frame.

Who doesn't love robots? With Doxel (https://www.doxel.ai/), you can capture images and laser scans daily on the jobsite. Doxel will measure progress and inspect quality of the job using artificial intelligence. The technology allows for measuring installed quantities and calculates earned value for thousands of budget line items. Measurable installed quantities on a jobsite allows the contractor to know exactly how much is owed for a day's work. Since issues are identified timely, the team's productivity will increase. When teams function as a cohesive unit, they are more inclined to engage fully and become more focused to accomplish the goals at hand.

One of the largest expenses on a contractor's books is insurance. You have to be well insured in anticipation of the unforeseen, which is costly! New and emerging technology is leading to reduced errors. Reduced errors mitigates the likelihood of jobsite injuries. SmartVid.io (https://www.smartvid.io/) scans jobsite photos or videos and calculates the area for exposed risks and safety issues. The product integrates with software widely used in the industry, such as Procore, BIM 360 Field, BIM 360 Docs, and Egnyte. According to OSHA, 20% of American worker deaths are in the construction industry each year. Jobsite deaths have climbed over the last decade, but can begin to decline with this e-software.

Creatures of habit are change-adverse. Change can be a scary concept that few are willing to try. The construction industry is behind the curve when it comes to allowing artificial intelligence to alter the processes and procedures that have been followed since the beginning of time. If we allow ourselves the flexibility to consider new possibilities, we might just see jobsites becoming more productive and efficient, and experience fewer workplace injuries and errors, all of which affect the bottom line. So let's not be adverse to change, let's embrace it!