

Beeby Constructions - a New Zealand perspective



Dunedin, New Zealand based Beeby Constructions has been using Benchmark Estimating Software since April 2003, and are delighted with the results. The company, which employs 17 people, specialises in infrastructure renewal projects such as drainage, bridges, and earthworks for authorities in the Otago region.

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Elimination of errors

Stephen Beeby says, “we had previously produced estimates using Excel and our own spreadsheets, but we experienced mistakes and knew our estimates were not consistent. After a considerable amount of searching and evaluation we settled on Benchmark. Our criteria were a system that two estimators could use at once, a system that would eliminate errors, and a system that provided a link to Microsoft Project.”

Fast and consistent programs

Authorities are now demanding a

construction program to be submitted with the project tender, and by linking Benchmark and Microsoft Project, Beeby Constructions can generate a program within 30 minutes, confident that the program is consistent with the project tender. A second benefit is that this feature provides the company with a double check against the timelines and resources in the estimate.

Integral part of operations

Benchmark has become an integral part of Beeby Constructions' operations. Since buying the software, the company has used it to produce more than 1000 tenders. In fact, Stephen Beeby reveals:

“Benchmark is on my desktop, and is open every day of the week. It offers more reports than we ever expected and we can easily access all the year's quotes which are stored in one electronic file.”

Proven time savings over 50%

The company is discovering more and more benefits as their use of Benchmark becomes more widespread. Some of these benefits are:

1. The company can print a detailed

and accurate Bill of Materials for use by project supervisors,

2. The library provides current price lists of materials, so estimates can be prepared even before subcontractors' prices are available; updating the libraries once new prices are available is a simple task,

“I am delighted with Benchmark and regularly tell other people about it.”

3. Time saving of 50% or more in tender preparation is typical,

4. Both estimators can price a job and come up with virtually the same price, giving the company high confidence in consistency and accuracy.

Competitive edge

Stephen Beeby summarises his company's experience by saying: “I'm delighted with Benchmark and regularly tell other people about it. We have a competitive edge because of Benchmark and we are also saving time and money. Despite the distance and time difference between New Zealand and Australia, the customer service from Benchmark is excellent.”

Australia (Head Office)

2/49 Berry Street, PO Box 952, Nowra NSW 2540
ph: +61 2 4422 3444, fax: +61 2 4422 4544

United Kingdom

Level 1, 1 Portland Street, Manchester M1 3BE
ph: +44 870 890 9886, fax: +44 871 431 0678



your competitive edge

www.benchmarkestimating.com

enquiries@benchmarkestimating.com

