DAVIS CONSTRUCTION

Motion Tablet PCs Running LATISTA Software Cut Inspection Time in Half, Allowing Construction Company to do More with Less

Overview

Region: East US
Industry: Contracting and Construction

Customer Profile
James G. Davis Construction (DAVIS), located in Rockville, Maryland, provides general contracting, construction and design services for the public sector. DAVIS is ranked 101st on the top 400 list of contractors in 2009 and the 32nd "greenest" contracting firm in 2009.

Business Situation
DAVIS' inspections were experiencing issues associated with maintaining the high levels of consistency and accuracy that DAVIS requires for each project.

Solution
DAVIS chose Motion Tablet PCs for their ability to coordinate its safety and quality assurance processes, from scheduling inspections to generating deficiency reports.

Results and Benefits
Motion Tablets coupled with LATISTA software helped DAVIS to eliminate communication and inspection errors, reduce man hours and do more with less.

- Rugged portable design
- Provides reliable on-site data
- Eliminates communication delays
- Reduces paper consumption

"Motion Tablets coupled with LATISTA Field software offer DAVIS an enterprise-wide solution that is web-based and mobile, the best of both worlds for a construction environment,"

Chris Scanlon, Vice President of Operations Support and Information Technology

DAVIS Construction, known for its long standing tradition of creating quality projects safely and efficiently, was experiencing inefficiencies in the consistency and accuracy of their job site inspections.

After paper methods failed, DAVIS looked to implement a technology solution that would provide their field inspectors with reliable hardware and consistent easy-to-interpret software.

DAVIS chose Motion Tablet PCs running LATISTA Field software to coordinate its safety and quality assurance processes, increasing productivity and maintaining the safety DAVIS is known for on their projects.

L A T I S T A
Synchronizing Construction

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"Everyone in the field likes using the technology because it's innovative and it makes things so much easier."

Excellence Through Better Inspections

DAVIS sought a software system to coordinate its safety and quality assurance processes, from scheduling inspections to generating deficiency reports.

Mobile and web-based software on book-sized, portable tablet computers would allow superintendents and inspectors to better collaborate with subcontractors and owners on resolving quality and safety issues. DAVIS' inspections were experiencing issues associated with maintaining the high levels of consistency and accuracy that DAVIS requires for each project.

"A list of standard issues means that you don't have to reinvent the wheel every time you go out," said Heather Baker, IT Business Analyst for Davis. "We wanted our new checklist system to combine all of our inspectors' knowledge to reduce oversight." Standardized, easy to use checklists streamlined the inspection process on the cityVista project and could be reused on future projects as well.

A collaborative, web-based software system allowed DAVIS to better coordinate and synchronize their inspection efforts. After previously managing the inspection process with a paper based system in an earlier phase of the cityVista project, DAVIS wanted a better way to communicate with subcontractors and the ability to document those communications. Generating and emailing reports and recording schedules, communications, and deadlines ensured that project participants were following instructions and keeping up with specifications.

Motion Tablets Paired with LATISTA Fulfills DAVIS' Needs

Using Motion, DAVIS superintendents could access plans on the jobsite, document deficiencies using a checklist, illustrate issues with photos, and enter everything into a single database. Because everything was organized into one central point, DAVIS had one person, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Finley, collecting and distributing all of their reports to subcontractors. Subcontractors on the cityVista project always knew whom to contact with questions or problems.

"LATISTA took away subs coming to us and saying they didn't know about a deficiency," said Finley. "Now I can just show them everyone I sent the email to and what the email said. We also have reports of when the subcontractor finished the job and when we inspected it."

Senior Superintendent on the cityVista project Josh Roe appreciated how much time was saved. "For every unit, we schedule three walkthroughs and three verifications, and we want to do at least five units a day. When we're in the heart of a project, that's 50 walkthroughs a day!" he said. "LATISTA let us do that with only four people."

DAVIS Improves Quality of Future Projects with Motion Tablets and LATISTA Software

After completing phases two and three of the cityVista project, DAVIS recognized the software as a valuable part of their quality assurance initiative. The company licensed the software companywide and plans to encourage its use on all future projects. "The company is adopting LATISTA to provide the quality construction we're looking for," said Heather Baker, "and everyone in the field likes using the technology because it's innovative and it makes things so much easier."

The same inspection processes used on the cityVista project for quality inspections will also help DAVIS achieve its primary goal of job-site safety. "LATISTA helps us share knowledge so that people know where to focus their attention," said Chris Scanlon, Vice President of Operations Support and Information Technology for DAVIS. By referencing a checklist rather than filling out a blank inspection sheet, safety inspectors can ensure that they have examined everything for hazards and defects. "Safety is the priority above all else at DAVIS," said Scanlon. "Using LATISTA in our inspection processes will help us identify, communicate and remedy issues faster at the jobsite. It also allows us to analyze the data collected over time to identify trends in data. Ultimately, the goal is to anticipate and eliminate safety issues before they occur. "

For DAVIS, in addition to the quality and safety inspection improvements, the benefit of LATISTA is the comprehensive reliability and security it imparts on the company's inspection processes.

"Motion Tablets coupled with Latista Software offered DAVIS an enterprise-wide solution that is web-based and mobile, the best of both worlds for a construction environment," added Scanlon. "We are excited with LATISTA's direction and the investment it is making in its infrastructure and technology. We're looking forward to offering the benefits of using LATISTA on all our projects from now on."