Construction Operations:
It's time to retire spreadsheets

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CPM Master

Project Name: The Oaks Condos	Start Date:			Total Duration: 13 months		
Project Manager: Larsen	End Date:					

TASK DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ASSIGNED 1	START DATE	END DATE	DURATION	COMMENTS
Planning	Complete		9/21/2025	9/30/2025	10	
Raw Material Accumulatic	Complete		10/1/2025	10/6/2025	6	
Basement Creation	Complete		10/6/2025	10/24/2025	19	
Floors Creation	Complete		10/25/2025	10/29/2025	5	
Light Fittings	Complete		11/1/2025	11/13/2025	13	
Sewage Pipelines	Complete		11/13/2025	11/15/2025	3	
Painting	In Progress		10/25/2025	12/5/2025	20	
Accessories Installation	In Progress		11/19/2025	12/10/2025	22	
AC Installation	In Progress		10/29/2025	12/9/2025	5	
Fire Extinguishers	In Progress		11/22/2025	12/15/2025	24	
Parking Space	Not Started		11/29/2025	12/20/2025	22	
Appliances	On Hold		12/10/2025	12/22/2025	13	
Plumbing	In Progress		12/10/2025	12/15/2025	6	
Final Inspections	Not Started		12/27/2025	12/30/2025	4	
Wrap up	Not Started		12/3/2025	12/21/2025	19	
House Cleaning	Not Started		1/3/2026	1/23/2026	21	
Complete	Not Started		1/3/2026	1/17/2026	15	

In the construction business, regardless of project size, whether it's a 160-story office tower or a 225-square feet tiny home, there is one common goal — complete the project on time and within budget. A large part of achieving it depends on how good a company is at construction project management (CPM). Ineffective and inefficient CPM can lead to fewer profits and a lower bottom line. Plus, it can negatively impact the brand and a company's reputation, hindering efforts to land future projects and achieve growth.

CPM can be very challenging for any construction company, general contractor, subcontractor, and its leaders. Each project has hundreds of details and decisions to track, monitor, and manage progress. The best decisions come from real-time data instead of information on a spreadsheet that may be hours or even days old.

Despite leaders being aware of spreadsheet limitations, some continue with a manual approach. Yet, others have sought, found, and integrated better ways of CPM and become even more successful in the construction industry.

Old vs. New Ways of CPM

One of several problems with using manual spreadsheets for CPM is they are labor-intensive and very time-consuming. Construction project managers must enter and regularly update timelines, budgets, equipment, bids, subcontractors, inspection reports, change orders, material orders, etc.

Making many entries is critical to stay aware of project detail status. Failing to assign and log a piece of equipment to a project can lead to losing track of it. Now you have unplanned replacement costs, which directly affect profits. In comparison, CPM platforms, software, and tools automate tasks cutting in half the time necessary for making entries.

Another area for improvement is that manual spreadsheets inhibit the ability to identify issues before they become expensive problems quickly. A manual process gauges status based on the last information entered, which may not be its current status. CPM software makes it possible to identify issues sooner and respond faster thanks to automatic and frequent updates. It also adds the capability of tracking, monitoring, and managing a construction project 24/7.

CPM software and tools are more effective and efficient at managing major areas like timelines, budgets, costs, bids, estimates, subcontractors, inspections, scheduling, and hundreds of related details.

Workers Interested in Streamlining Tools

Field-level workers in the construction industry have indicated they are interested in streamlining tools. In a 2021 survey cited in Engineering News-Record, 95% of respondents indicated they would be willing to use tools that could combine or streamline parts of their work.

Many companies are already benefiting from CPM technology. In the same survey, 84% of respondents indicated their company's adoption of digital tools impacted their work. Plus, 47% said their migration to digital technology is transforming the construction industry.

Multiple Digital Tools to Choose From

Several options exist for companies wanting to improve CPM performance. General and construction-specific project management platforms, software, and tools exist. A few specifically for construction and some of their features are listed below.

Name	Description	Features
Viewpoint ***Trimble Construction One***	Construction software to manage projects, processes, and people	• ProjectSIght • Automation • Project integration
Zoho Projects	A Cloud-based construction project management software for planning, tracking, and collaboration from anywhere	• Automation • Customization • User administration • Task management • Task automation • Blueprints • Time tracking • Chart & reports • Issue tracking & SLA
Asana	Asana is for managing construction team projects and tasks	• Workflow builder • App integration • Process automation • Real-time reports • Workloads across projects • Tracking Kanban boards • Goals setting • Desktop & mobile • Work request submittal & management
Buildertrend	Software for construction professionals and teams that provides real-time, 24/7 data	• Photo sharing & management • Scheduling from anywhere • Invoicing • Change orders • Daily logs • Document storage • Purchase orders • Communications
Contractor Foreman	Online subscription-based tool for construction management of projects, people, finances, documents, and more	• Estimating • Change orders • Timecards • Daily logs • Online payments

		• Job costing • 30-day free trial • 100-day money-back guarantee
Procore	Construction software that connects owners, GCs, and specialty contractors in one platform and creates a single source of truth	• Automatic synchronization across multiple devices • Create and distribute RFIs • Daily logs, inspections, and incidents • Financial tracking • Bid management • Invoice management • Design coordination
Kahua	Collaborative construction program and project management software	• Capital planning • Modeling • Cash flow forecasting • Design management & control • Cost & bid management • Construction administration
Jonas Software *By Jonas Construction Enterprises*	Platform where construction project data like information seamlessly flows across all modules—all for a single cost	• Accounting • Project Management • Document management • Field apps • Reports & dashboard • Dispatch
CoConstruct	Builder & remodeler software for custom projects	• Photo and file-sharing capabilities • Marketing material management • Change order and expense tracking tools
Autodesk *By Autodesk Construction Cloud*	Cloud-based software for construction management	• Centralized issued management • Standardized quality and safety inspections • RFI management • Meeting tracker • Asset management

The Bottom Line – Automation Wins

Despite clear indicators that CPM platforms, software, and tools bring benefits, some companies continue to operate with old manual ways. For those, time is not in their favor. As each day passes, they fall further behind others in the industry. Plus, they're losing a competitive edge and robbing themselves of higher performance and profits.

But those who have made the digital migration and adopted CPM technology are positioned for a bright future. They can spend less time and money on managing projects and focus more on efforts to drive growth. Plus, improve profit margins and customer satisfaction.

For more information, go to comparesoft.com.