



BOND Civil & Utility Unifies Management for 60+ Simultaneous Projects Using HeavyJob Project Management Module

BOND

Civil & Utility

Unionport Horizontal Direction Drill

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a central hub for everything
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managing a project.”***

-Jarrod LaRocco, Project Controls Manager at
BOND Civil & Utility Construction

Situation

BOND Civil & Utility Construction, based in Medford, Massachusetts, has been a leading full-service, self-performing, civil and utility contractor since 1907. The company has delivered thousands of infrastructure projects for customers in education, healthcare, district energy & power generation, public authority, and corporate markets.

The company takes pride in its commitment to creating intelligently designed infrastructure that ensures reliability and safety, while providing minimal disruption to daily lives.

BOND Civil & Utility has about 250 fulltime employees, managing craft labor workers that bring total headcount ranging from 650 to 1,000 during peak construction periods.

Project management is critically important to the company, which works throughout the Northeast, with regional offices in Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. The company typically has more than 60 projects simultaneously underway, generating about \$250 million in annual revenue.

To help ensure maximum performance and profitability, the company wanted to find a more robust project management solution than what it was currently using.

Solution

BOND Civil & Utility found the solution it needed in the Project Management module of HeavyJob, which provides digital Time Cards, Job Costs, and Project Management for Heavy Construction. The Project Management module, released in 2019, is a standard part of HeavyJob and represents a tremendous expansion of HeavyJob's project management capabilities.

“When we saw Project Management previewed at an HCSS Users Group Meeting, we immediately recognized its power,” says Zach O'Hara, Assistant Manager, Project Management, at BOND Civil & Utility Construction. “We knew we had found what we were looking for.”

The company was well positioned for replacing its existing project management application, as BOND has been using HeavyBid estimating & bidding software and HeavyJob for more than 20 years—and along the way have added several other HCSS products.

BOND Civil & Utility especially values the tight integration that HeavyJob Project Management provides between estimating and the field.



Harvard University Athletic Fields

“HeavyJob Project Management gives us transparency into performance, as well as diaries and everything that is happening on the project—including the ability to go back to the notes our estimator made when bidding the project,” says Jarrod LaRocco, Project Controls Manager at BOND Civil & Utility Construction. “We’ve also started integrating HCSS Plans into Project Management so we can digitally manage and document the project from a plans perspective—and to ensure everyone is working from the most current information.”

“One of the biggest selling points when we first saw Project Management was the ability to pull as many of the products that we use together into one location,” O’Hara says. “Since everything is connected, we can pull specific cost reports, RFI and submittal information, and our plans all into one location. With our previous management application things were kind of spread out amongst everything.”

HCSS Products Deployed by BOND Civil & Utility

- HeavyBid
- HeavyJob
- HeavyJob Web
- HCSS Safety
- Equipment360
- HCSS Dispatcher
- HCSS Plans
- HCSS Forms

Product Overview

BOND Civil & Utility Construction uses the Project Management module of HeavyJob for a number of purposes, including:

- **Centralized Project Management.** BOND Civil & Utility superintendents, field engineers, and foremen use Project Management as a centralized point to access all project files and information—including RFIs and submittals—to improve collaboration and to ensure project success.
- **Integration with HeavyBid.** BOND Civil & Utility values the fact that Project Management makes it seamless to access all bid information so superintendents and foremen can compare estimated time and materials against actual to help keep a project on schedule.
- **Project Visibility.** BOND Civil & Utility uses the HeavyJob Project Management dashboard to track schedules, due dates, status reports, and other essential project elements. The dashboard also includes automatic data entry from HeavyJob electronic timecards and daily diaries. All of this provides deep project visibility to help ensure project success.
- **Project Records.** Project Management provides a centralized point for automatically storing all records for a project. BOND Civil & Utility also finds value in that Project Management makes it easy to pull up information from similar past projects for reference.



Northeast Utilities, North Bloomfield Substation

Benefits

BOND Civil & Utility has found a number of benefits since moving to the Project Management module of HeavyJob, including integrated project management, production analysis to meet or beat forecasts, mobility to allow more work in the field, uniform qualitative reporting, forecasting to make better financial decisions, and ease of use.

Integrated Project Management

BOND Civil & Utility uses the Project Management module of HeavyJob as a centralized integration point for all project related information. Project Management also provides a natural integration point for other HCSS applications.

“One of the biggest advantages from my standpoint is how Project Management integrates HeavyJob, HeavyBid, HCSS Plans, HCSS Forms, and HCSS Safety into one single location,” LaRocco says. “And of course we like the RFI and submittal transmittal features. Project Management provides a central hub for everything you need to track or access in managing a project.”

The Project Management module has also proven beneficial to the company’s estimators.

“Our estimators like it because it makes it easy for them to search for data on other projects,” O’Hara says. “They can look up something like man-hour productivity factors for specific activities from our past jobs to better inform their bidding.”

“Production Analysis to Meet or Beat Project Forecasts “We Promote the Teams to Look at This Every Day”

The Project Management module of HeavyJob is helping BOND Civil & Utility teams to track project costs and timelines much closer than they could before.

“Our superintendents, field engineers, and foremen can look at production analysis every day to see how many man-hours they’ve gained or lost, or how many dollars they’ve gained or lost, or what their unit production rate is versus budget,” LaRocco says. “We promote the teams to look at these numbers every day.”

Because Project Management integrates with HeavyBid, superintendents, field engineers, and foremen can look at the actual bid, including notes from the estimator, to better understand forecasted timelines and resources.

The company also generates detailed labor productivity reports that are reviewed weekly.

“A lot of our analysis is based on unit rate and man-hours gained or lost,” LaRocco says. “HeavyJob does that all for us because we run payroll through it, so the man-hours are there, and then we also input quantity. With those two pieces, we can analyze production to help projects stay on track. This helps us make resource allotment decisions and adjust crews as needed to meet our targets.”



Mobility of HeavyJob Means “Our Superintendents and Field Engineers Can Be Out in the Field”

The ability to run HeavyJob from mobile devices such as an iPad or Android tablet has greatly extended the ability of BOND Civil & Utility leaders to work in the field.

“We’ve gained a huge benefit because using HeavyJob on a mobile device means our superintendents and field engineers can be out in the field with the crews and still be able to do their normal activities,” O’Hara says. “Our teams have become much more mobile and less tied down to traditional laptops and desks and offices.”



National Grid, Solar Arrays Dorchester

All of this helps BOND Civil & Utility to stay closer to their projects.

“Our supervisors can stay out on the job site managing work instead of being tied down with administrative duties back in the office,” LaRocco says. “HeavyJob on their iPads allows them to document a project in real time—as it’s happening—instead of at the end of the day when they go back to the office and try to remember the previous eight or 10 hours.”

Enabling all of this is the wealth of information that HeavyJob makes available—even when working on a site without internet connection.

“Our superintendents have budget information at their fingertips,” LaRocco says. “With HCSS Plans, they have the latest digital plans at their fingertips. Pretty much everything they need is in their hands. And they can download all of this so it’s on their tablet even without an internet connection.”

LaRocco notes: “All that information just being there in their hands provides a tremendous amount of value that’s hard to even put a number on.”

Uniform Qualitative Reporting

BOND Civil & Utility uses HeavyJob throughout its operations to provide uniform reporting.

“About two years ago, we rolled out a standard that all of our projects use to keep their diaries in a uniform fashion,” LaRocco says. “Using HeavyJob our teams do a good job of documenting each project in narrative form every day. In addition, they utilize the note indices to keep notes on specific categories. For example, we have one for safety incidents, another for subcontractors, another for material delivery. So teams can, in an organized fashion, log their notes and thoughts on all of those categories every day.”

HeavyJob makes it easy to include photos, which the teams also take advantage of.

“Our teams take a lot of photos that can be annotated and saved directly into HeavyJob,” LaRocco says. “Everyone can see the photos, and when looking from one job to another, the uniformity of reporting is very efficient.”

*Top: MIT.nano Research Building, Utility Enabling and Civil Infrastructure Services

Using HeavyJob Forecast Module to “Make Better Financial Decisions”

The Forecast Module of HeavyJob has proven to be an important tool for BOND Civil & Utility because it helps them stay on top of projects and to foresee potential issues before they become problems.

“The HeavyJob Forecast Module gives us different methods of forecasting that are really helpful to us,” LaRocca says. “Much of our work is unit-based—cubic yards of concrete, linear feet of pipe, tons of steel and such. So being able to forecast that unit rate gives us a lot of power and it allows us to review and validate the reports pretty easily.”

“We have 60 to 65 projects active right now,” O’Hara says. “When managing that many projects, one of the most important things to track is what we have done so far, and where we are going to end up. Because with that many projects, if things go south, you have a big problem. Our project managers use the forecast module to know where their projects have been, where they are going, and this helps them make better financial decisions for the company.”

Ease of Use

BOND Civil & Utility finds all of its HCSS applications easy to use, and especially values the way they integrate together—especially within the Project Management module of HeavyJob.

O’Hara especially likes the tight integration between HeavyBid and HeavyJob.

“The time card within HeavyJob pulls in from HeavyBid the estimates, notes, and assumptions that were embedded in a specific activity and puts it in the notes section of the cost code in the timecard,” O’Hara says. “This means that when the superintendent’s working in, say, the concrete placement cost code, they can look at the notes and see exactly what the estimator thought the crew was going to look like. This is what they thought the production was going to look like—and we should either try to hit it or beat it.”

LaRocca says the timecard element of HeavyJob is the best he’s ever seen.

“The timecard tool is very well laid out, intuitive, and easy for our teams to use to quickly get their information input every day,” LaRocca says. “None of the other timecard or mobile tools we’ve seen are remotely close to the level of HCSS. HCSS is best in class that I’ve seen as far as intuition and ease of use goes.”

Great Company to Work With

BOND Civil & Utility has found HCSS to be a great company to work with.

“As far as customer service goes, it is the best customer service I’ve ever experienced,” O’Hara says. “When I call, it is usually for something off-script in terms of needing help—not a normal problem. And the response is always immediate and complete. Their customer service is world class.”

LaRocca agrees, and enjoys working with HCSS developers as well.

“The support team is extremely strong,” LaRocca says. “And I really enjoy working with the development teams, too. They have fantastic ideas and are easy to work with. The salespeople are also great. They do an awesome job.”

About HCSS

Founded in 1986, HCSS is a leader in construction software and mobile applications solutions for the heavy civil, transportation, and utility industries. More than 80,000 professionals—including 48 of the ENR Top 50 Heavy Civil Contractors—use HCSS software to improve their proficiency at estimating, job management, resource management, safety and equipment management. In addition to high-quality software, for which it offers a money-back guarantee, HCSS is known for providing world-class customer service with professional implementation planning, ongoing training, and 24/7 instant support, 365 days a year. For more information about HCSS, visit: www.hcss.com.

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- ✓ Build a culture of accountability
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- ✓ Enhance communication
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