



Management Services

Management Solutions
performance + results

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Management Consultants to the Precast Industry

RESULTS IMPROVEMENT BULLETIN

PRECAST BUSINESS RESULTS IMPROVEMENT BULLETIN

Precast Business Results Improvement Bulletins are published by MJS Management Services. Additional bulletins that summarize current management challenges and solutions for the precast industry can be found at www.mjsmanagement.net.

MJS Management Services is a consulting firm that works exclusively with clients in the precast industry to improve business performance and results. For assistance with this or other management challenges please call 206-388-5209 or contact us by email. Visit our web site for a full description of the services we provide.

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GET READY FOR CHANGES IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Two groups are developing systems for the precast industry to automate detailing functions and to eventually provide a 3D parametric building modelling capability. This technology offers the promise to:

- Dramatically improve the turnaround time for design and detailing
- Allow changes to be processed quickly
- Improve the productivity of engineers and detailers
- Provide automated integration of design information to production, construction and financial applications
- Improve accuracy and quality.

Some questions:

- Are you aware of this technology and its impact?
- Is your organization preparing for the use of this technology?
- Have you considered the organizational and business process changes this technology will create?
- Have you considered the prerequisites and corresponding lead-times for successful use of this technology such as standardization, training and upgraded skill sets?

Remember, to gain the most value from the advances in engineering technology, this should be viewed as a management issue rather than just an engineering or technology project.

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MJS Management Services can assist you to deal with the impacts of engineering technology change.

Management Issues in Engineering Technology

Steel fabricators have for some time had access to software tools to speed the design and detailing functions. Two groups, the Precast Concrete Software Consortium and StructureWorks are currently developing systems to provide this capability to the precast industry.

Some action items to prepare for the evolution in engineering technology are:

- Form a team under the leadership of an executive to understand and prepare for the technology changes. The group should include representation from engineering, drafting, IT and perhaps production and finance.
- Ensure decisions and priorities are driven by the need to solve business problems and drive improvement, not simply to pursue new technology
- Determine how and when this technology will be introduced in your organization, update your long-range priorities and budgets with this information.
- Determine which technology provider best meets your needs.
- Determine and act on the prerequisites for successful deployment:
 - Standardization
 - Training and skills upgrade
 - When opportunities arise, hire engineers and drafters with training in 3D modelling systems
 - Determine the role and responsibility changes the technology will drive in engineering, drafting, production and other functions
 - Determine if your business IT systems will be compatible with the information produced by the engineering systems.