



THE 2006 VISION AWARDS

The *Constructech* Vision Awards honor those in the construction industry that have used leading-edge technology to solve a critical business issue.

This year's winners are profiled on the pages that follow. ●

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GOLD

Component Assembly Systems

Pelham, N.Y.

www.componentassembly.com

While some believe specialty contractors are far behind the technology curve, drywall contractor Component Assembly Systems (CAS), www.componentassembly.com, Pelham, N.Y., begs to differ.

The company continues to drive technology initiatives within its operations, using off-the-shelf applications and a bit of custom development to complete its IT infrastructure.

CASim (Component Assembly Systems Information Manager) is an internally built technology platform that allows users to access all information residing within the company, regardless of software application, from a Web-based interface. CASim has 98 different screen designs linked together in a Web-style drilldown format being accessed by more than 160 users in the field and in the office. Written with MS InterDev tools, CASim is a Web interface that uses active data objects from active server pages, which allows for easy access to any information.

Company officials believe users shouldn't need to know which application to access in order to find the data needed. Rather, all information should be readily accessible at all times. CASim communicates with disparate application databases across the organization and delivers the information to users in a timely manner.

For example, data residing in the accounting system is mirrored to another server, permitting redundancy of critical systems and allows CASim to access the data without compromising the performance of the accounting system.

The company has incorporated digital takeoff technology from On Center Software, www.oncenter.com, The Woodlands Texas, and digital imaging technology from Construction Imaging Systems, www.construction-imaging.com, Rocky Mount, N.C., into its mix of applications.

CASim helps CAS identify challenges early on in the process, allows management to get a streamlined view of operations, and enables access to all company information to all users from anywhere.

Seeing more email and file transfers of requisitions, correspondence, transmittals, and FTP plan transfers on jobs, CAS has built CASim to interact on this level of communication and to leverage XML (extensible markup language). In other words, when partners in the industry are ready, CAS has the technology to collaborate.

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