

5 key challenges EPCs currently face



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Labor Management

EPCs typically have to manage a huge labor force and with that there is a dual requirement to manage a high volume of time sheets, but also ensure that labor productivity remains high in order to complete projects on time. IFS



The IFS Solution

Ensuring that the your labour workforce are effectively utilised and managed is critical to the successfully delivery of work for your clients and at the same time maximising the opportunity to create valuable profit margins for your business. Plus keeping the labour force paid and on-time, and therefore happy, despite working on complex multiple jobs, and on multiple projects, requires back office solutions that can cope with the large volumes of transactions in ensure you complete the projects on time and to budget.

Procurement

EPCs are typically responsible for the procurement of a project, unlike traditional construction this can usually come in the form of specialist procurement items such as pumps, filters and valves – normally having to be sourced form another specialist ensuring supply chains are not compromised can be a major challenge

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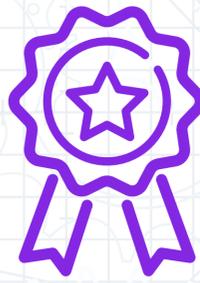
The IFS Solution

Having a solution that provides full Supply Chain Management is essential not only for core procurement requirements, but also to ensure specialist suppliers that are identified and managed within a solution to avoid the many supply chain disruptors that include:- conflicts, pandemics, base material supply shortages etc. Being able to manage disruption through effect procurement planning and supply chain can ensure delays are not experienced.

3

Winning Work

EPCs are predominantly a project driven company. They rely on winning new projects in order to keep revenue streams sufficient and grow their organizations. However, this isn't a simple task there is a requirement to have the right skills and services in order to make this happen



The IFS Solution

When considering which types of work an EPC might want to bid for requires granular knowledge of your existing workforce across a number of metrics. Having visibility of existing workforce capability and current commitments can guide whether the business has the capacity to take more work of that particular time, and if not, when they will be available to feed the new business won alongside the existing projects in flight. Plus, the business may want to either up-skill their existing workforce to enable them to win new work of a similar type, or to employ new resources that have the right skills for work types that have not been considered before. Having the right solution to enable those winning new work for the business is a fundamental requirement.

Offshore/Onshore

EPCs are not blessed with operating in simple environments, altitude, offshore and uncertain terrains are some of the elements an EPC may have to face. To manage this EPCs require specialist equipment in order to operate e.g. vessels for when working at sea. This in its own right creates an additional challenge in that the assets they own to do the work need to be kept operational as any downtime can be a concern for project success

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The IFS Solution

With so many variable parameters having to be considered by an EPC, as with resources like staff with their own capabilities and skill sets, there are other physical considerations that need to taken into account with a similar level of detail. These resources, or assets, may need particular consideration in terms of the environments they are required to operate in, and how that will affect their performance and longevity. EPCs need to be able to ensure that these assets are being used in the right environment for their design, that their service requirements are being measured and recorded, and they also need to ensure that there is enough capacity in other assets to cover for service periods or potential breakdowns or loss. Many of these environments are harsh and remote so effect solutions, requires vital to manage this challenge.

5

System architecture requirements

Given the complexity of EPCs, they need to have a business system that is not only able to match their current requirements but grow with their future requirements. A typical system for an EPC could be 50+ different business systems patched together by disjointed APIs – not only is this inefficient it requires each system having a specialist that is responsible for their smooth functioning.



The IFS Solution

Future thinking EPCs are increasingly considering how they can consolidate their solution landscape to avoid the complex, disjointed, unintegrated, legacy point solutions that they have brought together over time driven often by demand or individual circumstances. Some of the most successful EPCs are adopting a digital back bone provided by the an ERP solution that provides a single, core information providing the instant business critical making information that can be integrated into best of breed point solutions as required. EPCs who are adopting this digital, ERP back bone are able to flex their solution landscape by integrating with point solutions driven by client or business demands and keep their solutions evergreen as a consequence.

To find out how IFS can help with your EPC challenges, please visit: www.ifs.com