As we look back on 2023, for a lot of businesses across every industry, it was the year of artif cial intelligence (AI). There was a lot of talk, a fair amount of hype, some healthy skepticism, and many glimpses into what the future could look like. How much might AI transform the construction industry? In this article on AI in construction, we take a closer look at the areas where AI can make a difference in streamlining project management, bridging the gaps between f eld and the off ce, and boosting productivity by reducing unnecessary overhead.

Let's start by determining if AI is right for your business. A lot of small or midsized construction companies may think that AI is for larger, global f rms managing multibillion-dollar projects. In some ways, this is true; especially if a company R

comes down to understanding what it can and cannot do for your company.

What follows are three ways AI can deliver value to construction companies.

1. ELIMINATE GUESSWORK IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The biggest cost sinkholes in construction projects are usually due to missing deadlines. Those project delays—due to labor shortages, unrealistic deadlines, and supply chain hiccups —will add up to costly overruns. This is where AI lends a hand by looking at a contractor's historical data. Based on

analysis of past performance of similar projects, including internal and external factors such as staff ng, supplier delays, local and state compliance requirements, inspections, etc., project managers can spot potential issues before they impact scheduling and managing resources.

That is not to say past plans are not useful when developing proposals and managing projects. What's different now, and

2. BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN JOBSITE DATA AND THE OFFICE

It is hard to believe how many paper forms are still used on jobsites. When workers check in at the trailer to start the day, and site supervisors fll out the daily log at the end of the day, paper forms quickly pile up — and you better hope they don't tear, get wet, or wind up behind a fle cabinet. This information either sits in the trailer to be fled away at some future date, or it becomes a burden for the offce to manage it. This process is rife with issues stemming from illegible forms, an elevated risk of human error as data is re-keyed, and potential delays in completing compliance forms and payroll.

While many construction companies are moving away from paper processes, replacing them with easy-to-download apps or quickly building their own forms on the fy can also create an expensive disconnect with the offce. The information from those apps or digital forms often sits on the devices where they are used. Sure, you can do some heavy lifting to integrate the apps into a specifc platform, but making the information easily accessible so the boss can see the big picture on project proftability is still challenging. It often requires manual input and/or reformatting.

Using generative AI, workers are guided through the app-building process with prompts and forms that make them functional in minutes. They are consistent with the company's business processes and instantly fow into a platform making it easy to see project progression without creating unnecessary fxes to make it all ft together.