

### iPad and Google Drive Integration – Innovation Description

#### What the innovation is and why it is innovative:

The innovation integrates the use of Google Drive and the iPad tablet to accomplish several tasks:

- Allows users to transfer drawings and other construction documents between office and field
- Improves communication within the team by presenting real-time bulletin boards
- Serves as a space for immediate input/viewing of timesheets, material logs, possible change order work, etc.
- Allows users to document site conditions with photos, notes, dimensions etc. and immediately share with other team members
- Serves as a single source of information for the project team, ensuring that everyone is “on the same page” thus reducing the risk of conflicting information

iPad and Google Drive Integration is innovative because it improves communication and efficiency while reducing waste of excessive time and paper. This innovation uses current technology (internet storage and tablets) to create a dynamic relationship between the members of a construction team. This way every member of the team is kept up-to-date with the most current job information and status. It reduces the risk of confusion and redundant information.

#### What it changed or replaced:

This innovation replaces errors caused by word-of-mouth communication. At the least, it serves as a way to quickly log notes on information that *is* passed verbally. It provides an opportunity for the user to notify team members right away rather than doing it at another time when the team members cross paths. Planning to relay information later sometimes leads to forgetting on both ends.

Often times, it is easy to lose or destroy drawings, sign-in sheets, etc. at the job site. Using this innovation, there is little need to bring certain paper documents to the field.

Integrating iPads and Google Drive allows its users to stay more organized, something that is often difficult to accomplish with physical job folders and files.

With this innovation, the need for specific daily/weekly team meetings is reduced. The topics that would be covered in a meeting should already be communicated if each member regularly checking into Google Drive.

#### Where and when it originated, has been used, and is expected to be used in the future:

For Southeastern, our original intent was to find a program that would allow our office to share documents and drawings with the employees in the field. Through trial and error, we were able to build upon this idea and come up with a system that is more interactive, therefore improving communication and efficiency. We use this innovation on every job in our Kissimmee division and it has proved to be a useful tool.

Tablets and online storage/sharing programs have already started making their way into the construction industry as a whole. It is foreseeable that more and more companies will be using a combination of the two to facilitate their day-to-day work.

## iPad and Google Drive Integration – Innovation Illustration

