CASE STUDY

Burns & McDonnell relies on Octave Sequence Enterprise as pillar technology for projects

Key facts:

Company: Burns & McDonnell

Website: www.burnsmcd.com

Description: A global leader in design and construction

Headquarters: Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Employees: 7,600

Locations: More than 55 offices worldwide

Octave products used: Sequence Enterprise *(EcoSys)*

Burns & McDonnell is a full-service engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting solutions firm based in Kansas City, Missouri. Its 7,600 employees plan, design, permit, construct and manage facilities all over the world.

Since day one, the firm's mission has been clear and consistent — to make its clients successful. The Strategic Initiatives team contributes to that mission by implementing processes and technology throughout the company that help project teams streamline project execution. The vision of this team is to help deliver a fully integrated project lifecycle, where data is created once, and as a project progresses, it automatically flows to users when they need it. To carry out that vision, the Strategic Initiatives team began implementing technology pillars to reduce the number of software systems supported and used by the workforce.

To be a technology pillar at Burns & McDonnell, a software needs to have the flexibility and usability to work across the entire enterprise. It also needs to be scalable so the system can grow as business needs evolve. Burns & McDonnell views technology pillars as long-term investments, allowing them to leverage integration, eliminate siloed tools and avoid the pain of replacing software systems every few years.

Prior to implementing a pillar technology for project controls, Burns & McDonnell had an existing project controls system that was failing due to lack of functionality, inability to scale and difficulty of use. After pushback from end users, the Strategic Initiatives team began to search for a replacement solution.

Burns & McDonnell decided to partner with Octave to make Sequence Enterprise the pillar technology for enterprise project controls because of its configurability, flexibility and ease of use. Today, all project teams use Sequence Enterprise as the front end to the enterprise resource planning (ERP) system to take advantage of its more familiar and functional user interface.

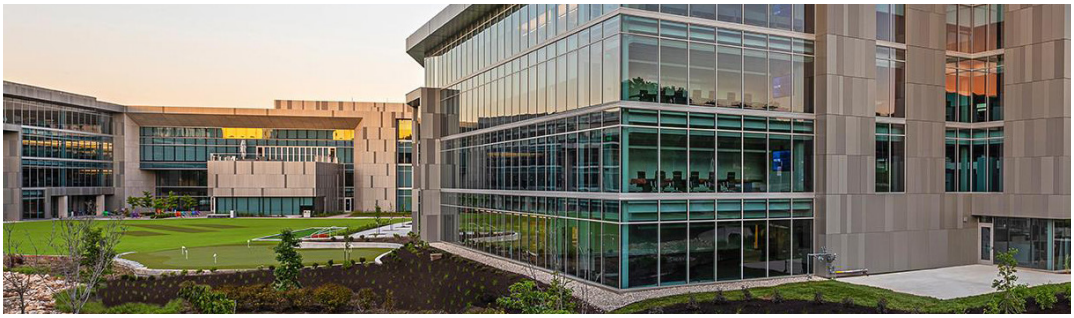
Burns & McDonnell leverages the bi-directional integration capabilities of Sequence Enterprise to share data with other pillar systems in real time. Sequence Enterprise sends project data to the ERP system so finance can validate and make sure it meets business requirements. The data from the ERP then updates the project status in Sequence Enterprise, which also is integrated with the customer relationship management (CRM) system.

Once projects that are in pursuit are won, they can easily be created and started within Sequence Enterprise.

Multiple times, Burns & McDonnell has been able to use this technology's built-in configurability to tailor the system to meet the needs of users.

Key benefits:

- Integration capabilities allow data to be created once, then leveraged throughout the project lifecycle
- This technology avoids the cost of having to retrain project teams on software tools every three to five years
- Sequence Enterprise is closely integrated with and serves as the front end to the ERP system, allowing end users to work in a more user-friendly, functional and familiar interface
- Easy configurability allows changes to be made to the system as needs change – whether from shifts in the industry or new users being onboarded due to an acquisition
- With Sequence Enterprise, employee-owners can manage project financials from anywhere, at any time



For example, when onboarding a newly acquired company with different work processes, the company quickly created role-based screens and menus specific to new users without disrupting current users. After the success of Sequence Enterprise for project controls, its use has been expanded to include professional services estimating. Burns & McDonnell now considers Sequence Enterprise be part of its critical infrastructure.

Next steps

Burns & McDonnell plans to expand the scope of Sequence Enterprise to include resource management and will continue to leverage it as a pillar technology, connecting it with other tools and completing the vision of a fully integrated project lifecycle.

"There's been absolutely nothing we've wanted to do with Sequence Enterprise that we haven't been able to do. If you can dream it, you can do it in Sequence Enterprise"

Patty Sullivan
Strategic Initiatives, Project Manager
Burns & McDonnell

Challenges

- Replace outdated project controls system that wasn't user-friendly
- Flexibly accommodate processes for 10+ industries
- Accommodate more than 20,000 current projects while adding 500 new projects per month

Solution

- Sequence Enterprise Project Performance software serves as pillar technology for project controls
- Business processes include budgeting, forecasting, performance management and professional services estimating
- Strategic partnership with Octave allows Sequence Enterprise to evolve with business needs
- Sequence Enterprise integrates with other pillar technologies to reduce the number of systems that need to be supported

Learn More

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About Octave

Octave is a leader in enterprise software, turning data into decisive action and intelligence into your edge. Our software solves for and simplifies complexity, from the design and build to operations and protection of people, property and assets – for any scope, at any scale. For decades, we've partnered with customers to sharpen performance, elevate efficiency and amplify results. From factory floors to entire cities, our solutions are tuned to scale up what's possible from day one onward.

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