

# MIDWEST ENGINEERING BREAKOUT ROOM

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

## How Technology can Help Trade Contractors Become More Efficient

Trade contractors face increasing pressure to improve efficiency, control costs, and manage complex projects while maintaining compliance and workforce productivity. In this session, we will explore six key areas where data-driven solutions can transform daily operations and drive profitability. Through real-world applications, attendees will learn how CMiC's integrated platform supports trade contractors in overcoming industry challenges such as:

- Workforce & Labor Management—Track labor hours and costs in real-time, streamline payroll and union compliance, and reduce the administrative burden with automated workflows.
- Cost & Financial Control – Improve forecasting, manage accounts payable/receivable, and maintain job cost control for better financial oversight.
- Project Management & Field Operations – Optimize change order processes, enhance subcontractor collaboration, and reduce project delays using mobile-friendly tools.
- Procurement Management – Streamline material procurement, vendor management, and cost forecasting.
- Document & Compliance Management – Centralize drawings, RFIs, and contracts while ensuring regulatory compliance and audit readiness via CMiC Search.
- Reporting & Business Intelligence – Leverage real-time dashboards and forecasting tools to identify risks, cost overruns, and efficiency gaps before they impact the bottom line.

### Laurent Amar - CMiC

Laurent Amar has been a part of the CMiC team since 2014 where he has played an instrumental role in the growth of CMiC's cloud-based initiatives. As Vice President of Sales, Laurent brings to the position over 25 years of experience in the construction software industry and together with his team is responsible for creating successful partnerships with some of CMiC's most notable clients. He continues to focus his efforts on breaking the barriers for construction companies to be able to leverage the power of a truly innovative platform.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## Construction AI - Modernizing MEP Projects Correctly

Dig into the rapidly changing and advancing field of AI and how it can be applied to MEP projects. Key areas of application in risk analysis, project life cycle management and best practices will be covered. Also covered will be the limitations of AI, what it is and is not.

### Melvin Newman - Patabid

Meet Melvin, the visionary force behind PataBid! As President/CTO, he's not just a seasoned pro with 15+ years in construction estimating - he's also a trailblazing entrepreneur and college guest lecturer. Melvin co-founded PataBid in 2018, revolutionizing the industry through cutting-edge software and digital tools. From estimator and Contech guru to a dynamic full stack developer, Melvin brings unparalleled expertise in AI, ML, systems development and their intersection with the construction industry. Passionate about making technology accessible to all, he's not just building the future; he's speaking about it! Featured on 10 top industry podcasts, including Construction Genius, Construction Revolution and The ConTech Crew, Melvin's not just shaping the conversation; he's leading it!

# MIDWEST ENGINEERING BREAKOUT ROOM

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Session Sponsored By:



University  
of Manitoba | Extended Education

## The Future of Construction & BIM Adoption

### 1. Opening Remarks & Industry Overview

- Joe Furgal, Bockstael Construction will provide a high-level overview of the Manitoba's construction industry adoption and integration of Building Information Modeling (BIM). The session will provide insights into how BIM is shaping workflows, enhancing collaboration, and improving efficiencies across the industry.

### 2. Panel Discussion: BIM in Action – Challenges & Successes

- Joe will then moderate a panel discussion featuring key BIM leaders from Manitoba and beyond. Panelists will share their insights on how BIM is transforming the construction industry and what it takes to successfully implement BIM strategies.

### 3. Panelists

- Scott Hammond, SMS Engineering – Discussing BIM adoption from an engineering perspective, including efficiencies in design coordination and modeling accuracy.
- Sean Usher, Republic Architecture & BIM Management program instructor – Exploring BIM's role in architectural workflows and its impact on design collaboration and project delivery.
- Steve Robinson, President, Pitt Meadows Plumbing & Mechanical Systems – Bringing a West Coast perspective, Steve will share PMP's journey as an early adopter of BIM, how it has improved their prefabrication processes, and the role of innovation in finding a "better way."

### 4. Audience Q&A & Closing Remarks

- Interactive discussion with attendees on BIM implementation strategies, industry roadblocks, and future innovations.
- Final thoughts from the panel on the future of construction and the next steps for Manitoba's BIM community.

### 5. BIM Education in Manitoba

- Learn about University of Manitoba's Certificate in BIM Management. UM Extended Education will provide program overview and course registration information.

## Certificate in Building Information Modeling (BIM) Management from University of Manitoba Extended Education

Learn to effectively manage your part of a project's lifecycle and work within the AECOO team by adding our Building Information Modeling Management certificate to your resume. Build on your career in Architecture, Engineering, Construction, or as an Owner or Operator as you gain important knowledge about digital construction and BIM project management processes that are being adopted around the world.

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## The Future of Construction & BIM Adoption - Cont'd



### Joe Furgal - Bockstael Construction

Joe Furgal, P.Eng., is a Preconstruction Manager at Bockstael Construction, where he focuses on collaborative project delivery and Building Information Modeling (BIM). With a solid understanding of Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) frameworks, Joe was involved in Manitoba's first CCDC 30 project—a heavy equipment operator training institute, completed in 2024. He values the IPD validation phase for its ability to align project teams and help deliver projects that meet target value goals. Joe is currently managing a variety of projects, including the Winkler Centennial Arena, the CancerCare Research Institute, the historic Pantages Theatre, upgrades to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Manitoba Club, expansion at the Brandon University Brodie Science Centre, a 25 kV electrical reservicing project, and Central Energy Plant upgrades at the University of Manitoba, and a deep energy retrofit including geothermal and solar for the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. His experience in both the technical and collaborative aspects of construction make him well-suited to contribute to conversations around BIM and collaborative project delivery.



### Scott Hammond - SMS Engineering

A Partner and Senior Mechanical Engineer at SMS Engineering, Scott Hammond brings over 15 years of experience in multi-disciplinary planning, design and construction. Specializing in high-performance buildings, he focuses on innovative, cost-effective solutions that transform the built environment. Some of his favourite projects include the Winnipeg Richardson Airport Terminal Building, Canada Life's Winnipeg Campus Redevelopment, Investors Group Field, and the new Portage District Hospital.



### Sean Usher - Republic Architecture & BIM Management Program Instructor

Sean is the Director of Design Technology & Innovation at Republic Architecture. With over a decade of experience in the AEC industry, he has led design technology implementation and applications, including BIM management, visualization, reality capture, and model analysis. As a founding member of the Winnipeg BIM Community—a Building SMART Canada affiliate group—he helps lead efforts to promote and support digital delivery practices locally. Sean teaches in the UM Extended Education Certificate program Certificate in BIM Management program and was among the first professionals in Canada to earn Open BIM Foundation certification through Building SMART.



### Steve Robinson - Pitt Meadows Plumbing & Mechanical Systems

Steve is passionate about new ideas and finding ways to be innovative in an ever-changing industry. Steve believes in hard work and being dedicated to getting the job done right and he is often focused on the big picture and what the future holds for Pitt Meadows Plumbing. In 2024, Steve was recognized as one of Construction's Most Influential People by SiteNews. In his spare time, Steve enjoys farming in Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam, & Pemberton as well as spending time with his grandchildren.

# MIDWEST ENGINEERING BREAKOUT ROOM

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



## **Beyond Paper: Unlocking Efficiency and Predictability with Digital Advanced Work Packaging**

Discover how advanced work packaging (AWP) is replacing outdated paper workflows with integrated, real-time data systems. Designed for electrical and mechanical contractors, this session reveals how digital workflows enhance efficiency, reduce errors, and streamline the shift to shop fabrication—ensuring predictable, on-time, and high-quality project outcomes.

### **Todd Liebe - Stratus**

Todd Liebe is a seasoned leader in the mechanical construction industry with 30 years of experience. After earning his engineering degree from Iowa State University, he built his career at QuickPen, rising to VP of Sales. He later served as VP at Quote Software, where he identified key industry challenges. Todd then founded Get the Point, pioneering a layout solution that became Autodesk BIM 360 Point Layout. Now as the founder of Stratus (formerly GTP Software), he focuses on provide a pathway for the Mechanical, Electrical, and Sheet Metal Contractors in the areas of prefabrication and procurement. His team has developed applications based on Autodesk's Revit and Forge platforms that revolutionize these workflows.