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*From the April/May 2006 [Review of Construction Accounting Software](#)*

Builder Information System – Version 1135.18 is the latest version of this excellent construction-related software from MICS. Designed for construction companies of all sizes, Builder Information Systems is offered in three distinct versions: Standard for small businesses; Professional for midsize companies; and Enterprise for large construction and construction-related companies.

#### **LEARNING CURVE — 5 Stars**

Installation was quick and easy: The program was on one CD, and the Report Server module engine was on a second. A variety of FAQs are available from MICS. License files are installed from a diskette, and a demo company is included for practice sessions. The main screen contains a drop-down menu with various options, including

File, Edit, Job, Transactions, Reports, Administrator and List. To open a company, you simply click on File | Open Company. User preferences can be assigned for a variety of menu options, including settings, forms, hyperlinks, backgrounds, mail accounts and reports. Data-entry screens are easily navigated with lookup windows for all necessary fields. A decent Help feature will guide you through setting up the system.

#### **MODULES & FUNCTIONALITY — 5 Stars**

The base system includes GL, AR, AP, Job Cost, Job Billing and Payroll, and is available for up to three users. Optional modules available for the Standard Edition include Bank Reconciliation, Password, Subcontract Control and the Union module (which was added this year). The Professional (up to 100 users) and

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posting account numbers, the building owner and architect, markup and change order information, billing method you wish to use, and your labor billing rate. Payroll information can also be entered, along with historical data and a section to enter user-defined fields for each particular job. An area for notes is also available.

Job budgets will track cost by category, and you can easily copy budget information from one job to another. You can also enter an unlimited number of change orders. The program also tracks budgeting information for each cost code entered in the system. The Job Billing feature allows you to easily track scheduled value, previous payments on that particular job, work in place, percent completed and total completed. Equipment history is easily maintained with areas provided to enter serial numbers, make and model, fuel usage, and average maintenance cost. The user-defined field option can be used to track the information deemed most important.

### **IMPORT/EXPORT/INTEGRATION — 5 Stars**

Smaller companies can start with the Standard edition and easily move up to the next edition without cumbersome data importing or retraining. All modules integrate seamlessly to provide real-time data processing. Builder Information System is ODBC compliant, which means you can easily export your data into third-party applications such as Crystal Reports, Microsoft Excel, Word and Access. And in the latest version, you can now export reports in \*.XLS and \*.PDF formats, even in the Standard edition. As well, you can now export reports in \*.RTF and \*.TIF in the Professional edition and in HTML in the Enterprise edition.

### **SUPPORT & TRAINING — 5 Stars**

All new users are given four hours of setup training conducted by a qualified

trainer over the phone. Onsite training is also offered for those who prefer

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e-mail addresses of the recipients, the reports you wish to send and the format you wish to use, and the Report Server will generate and e-mail the reports automatically. The optional Report Writer module will customize existing forms or create and modify new reports.

### **RELATIVE VALUE — 5 Stars**

Builder Information System is an excellent program that even new users would feel comfortable with immediately. True scalability, a great selection of add-on modules, and easy import and export capability make this program an excellent value. BIS Standard Edition is available starting at \$3,200; the Professional Edition starts at \$9,250, and the Enterprise Edition starts at \$12,025.

### **2006 Overall Rating — 5 Stars**

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