

CASE STUDY:

Real-time collaboration and connected steel management leads to a tenfold increase in production

Overview

BUSINESS	Bennett Steel
SECTOR	Structural steel fabrication
MARKETS	Commercial, Industrial, Healthcare, Education
CUSTOMER	Find a steel fabrication management solution that was easy to use and worked with their business
SOLUTIONS	Tekla PowerFab, Trimble Connect
RESULTS	<p>Tekla's impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy to learn, so everyone can use the software• Effectively handles inventory and production control• Ability to easily view and share constructible data• Truly constructible data makes it easy for fabricators to transform their work

Challenge

Through over four decades of hard work, Bennett Steel was able to grow from a small erection company to an award-winning provider of steel erection and fabrication.

While the industry has certainly evolved since the company began its operations in Northeast Oklahoma, Bennett Steel has been able to set themselves apart in the field by being open to the adoption of new technology solutions. After having used the same fabrication management solution for around 20 years, they eagerly updated to the latest version—but quickly found that this new version no longer worked the way they needed it to.

"It didn't take long for the company to realize the upgraded version wasn't hitting the mark. Even after a full week of implementation, no one in our organization knew how to use the software," said Matt Bennett, vice president of Bennett Steel.

Solution

Bennett and his team began exploring other options and discovered Tekla PowerFab, Trimble's steel fabrication management software suite. When they realized how well Tekla PowerFab handled their inventory and production control, they knew it was a better fit for their organization than their previous software.

...with Tekla PowerFab and Trimble Connect, our crews work more efficiently so our costs are lower and our projects are more profitable.

Matt Bennett, vice president

After struggling with the usability of their previous software, the team at Bennett Steel found Tekla PowerFab much easier to use and easy to customize. For example, the team was able to create custom reports exactly in the format they needed from the thousands of different options that come standard with Tekla PowerFab—no additional downloads required.

Bennett Steel has also seen the benefit in taking full advantage of Trimble Connect, a cloud-based platform available in the Tekla PowerFab suite that allows project stakeholders to view and share constructible data and project information from anywhere, at any time. “Right away, Trimble Connect accelerated our workflows and made collaboration between the shop and the field seamless,” said Bennett. “Work that was once time consuming and manual is now done with the click of a button. It’s what we had been waiting for: a simple way to align our shop and field crews.”



Results

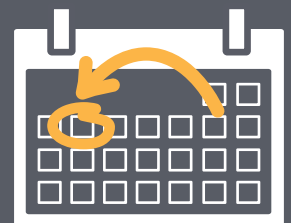
Tekla PowerFab gives Bennett Steel detailed tracking of its entire inventory across all jobs and provides real-time updates as material is received and consumed. Items in inventory can be tracked by the job number using standard steel nomenclature and items for specific jobs can be reserved or returned to stock if they aren’t needed for a project.

Their team is able to upload models, erection drawings, shop drawings and other documentation to Trimble Connect for anyone on the team to view, review, reference or archive with revision history. These materials can be accessed in the shop, office or in the field by desktop, mobile and even with mixed reality devices. The platform helps Bennett Steel maintain control over changes thanks to constant collaboration, so costly rework caused by outdated information is an inconvenience of the past.

Advances in steel management information systems and the ability to leverage truly constructible data, from estimating to erection, have made it possible for fabricators like Bennett Steel to transform their work, enabling collaboration and a continuous, real time flow of information throughout the project lifecycle.

**Faster workflows.
Easy collaboration.
More profitable projects.**

4.5 days
saved when
setting up new
jobs



10x
increase in
production



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