

Customer Case Study: Hunt Construction Group



Hunt Construction Group Uses Prolog® Solutions and Encompass Software to Complete World Class Sports Stadium in Time for Preseason Opener

Founded in 1944, Hunt Construction Group is one of the top construction firms in the nation and a leader in sports building. Headquartered in Scottsdale, AZ, Hunt also has offices across the U.S. Its subsidiaries include Hunt Paving Company, Hunt Sports and Hunt International. The firm is ranked #27 on ENR's 2006 Top 400 Contractors list and #84 on its 2006 Top 225 Global Contractors list. The recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, Hunt's recently-completed Arizona Cardinals Stadium project was named one of the Top 10 Sporting Structures in the World by BusinessWeek.



When Hunt Construction Group searched for project management software to replace its spreadsheets and manual, paper-based processes, it's no surprise that it chose Prolog Manager and Prolog® WebSite from Meridian Systems®. To manage \$1.7B in annual revenues, Hunt needed a flexible solution to deploy on a variety of project types while meeting the reporting needs of various owners. Prolog delivered.

With more than 100 projects underway on any given year, Prolog provides Hunt's 600 employees with a mechanism to maintain the organization and distribution of large volumes of information. When Hunt was awarded the design-build contract for the recently-completed \$455M Arizona Cardinals Stadium, the renowned sports builder had standard Prolog processes in place to complete the three-year project in time for the 2006 football season.

Prolog Facilitates World Class Construction

Hunt is no stranger to the sports industry. In 1975, it completed the Louisiana Superdome, the largest steel-span structure in the world (certified by the Guinness Book of World Records). In 1980, it completed the first fabric-domed stadium in the United States: the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University. And in 1988, it completed Chase Field (formerly Bank One Ballpark), the first retractable roof facility in the U.S. with a natural grass playing field and air conditioning.

By using Prolog for the Arizona Cardinals Stadium construction, Hunt was able to significantly streamline its management of the project.

"With Prolog," explains Julie Meeker, Hunt Project Engineer, "our construction staff can focus on the job of designing and building world class landmarks such as the Arizona Cardinals Stadium instead of 'reinventing the wheel' each time a new project is started." Consistent reporting allows management to assess the state of a project and resolve problems before they add costs or create schedule delays.

"Having Prolog reduces the amount of time needed to get new projects off the ground because our staff is familiar with its processes," continues Meeker. "We can move employees from project to project without spending time and money on additional training. Plus, the ability to consistently retrieve project documentation from Prolog when an issue comes up has resulted in long-term savings for Hunt."

Hunt uses Prolog WebSite, a Web-based extension of its Prolog software, to facilitate collaboration with outside designers and owners and ensure the timely distribution of critical project information. "Instead of flooding our customers with an overwhelming amount of paperwork," explains Meeker, "they can use Prolog WebSite to access project details at their convenience."

Encompass Increases Punch List Efficiency

Hunt has leveraged Meridian Systems partner products to further increase the efficiencies it has gained from using Prolog. For the Stadium project, Hunt turned to Dimension 5 Solutions (D5; www.d5solutions.com) and its Encompass Software Suite for help in expediting its punch list process.

Historically, punch list items at Hunt were hand-written and manually entered into Prolog. Due to the aggressive Stadium project schedule driven by the Arizona Cardinals' preseason opener on August 12, 2006, Hunt needed to streamline its punch list time and resources during this final stage of the project.

After meeting with Hunt about its needs, D5 recommended Encompass: Mobile for remote punch list data collection and Encompass: Project Controls for immediate corrective action. When integrated with Prolog, these solutions would meet Hunt's unique punch list collection requirements.

Encompass: Mobile. Using a tablet PC running Encompass: Mobile, Hunt was able to efficiently punch out each

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*Julie Meeker, Project Engineer
Hunt Construction Group*

area of the stadium on a single, customized form. Data was collected using a stylus to check off existing punch list items, select common descriptions from a drop-down list and hand write items directly on the tablet screen. Once data was collected, it was wirelessly sent to Hunt's Prolog database, where punch list records were automatically created.

Encompass: Project Controls. Once the punch list records were created in Prolog, the subcontractors could immediately access their punch list items through the Encompass: Project Controls Web interface and take immediate action to correct their items. From the field, Hunt wirelessly downloaded the corrected punch list items directly to a tablet PC and performed the check-off inspections to close each completed item.

By using the D5 Encompass solutions in conjunction with Prolog, Hunt was able to realize a significant increase in punch list efficiency, which contributed to the timely delivery of the Arizona Cardinals Stadium.

Prolog Positively Affects Company Growth

In today's construction environment, a tool that organizes project information is a necessity. One that also delivers the ability to standardize project management processes, says Meeker, can allow companies like Hunt to increase revenues without adding support staff. "By standardizing on Prolog software," she states, "we have been able to manage jobs more efficiently and spend more time on actual construction. Prolog positively affects company growth and sales."

Hunt Construction Group Project Profile

Arizona Cardinals Stadium, Glendale, AZ

The new Arizona Cardinals Stadium is the first sports facility in North America to feature a removable natural grass field and an inclined retractable roof. Even before the stunning landmark opened in August 2006, it had been named one of the Top 10 Sporting Structures in the World by BusinessWeek. Under the header "Wonders of the World," BusinessWeek recognized that "modern arenas are true architectural works, using the latest materials and technology."

Key Project Elements

- Retractable "inclined" roof
- Removable natural grass, "roll-out" field
- 1.7M square feet of space
- Seating for up to 63K people for sporting events; 73K for special events
- 88 suites initially, with space for 16 future suites
- Climate controlled interior

Final contract value: \$455M

Project completion date: August 2006

Awards

Named one of the Top 10 Sporting Structures in the World by BusinessWeek

Results

Hunt delivered the state-of-the-art Stadium to the Arizona Cardinals in time for their first preseason game in August 2006.



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