

Evaluation Guide

Construction Cost Estimating Software

There are many important questions that you need to ask your software vendor in order to make an educated decision when purchasing cost estimating software. This free report was produced by CMS to help evaluate estimating systems and the companies that produce these products. As one of the pioneers in the industry with over 30 years of experience, CMS has a sincere interest in the successful adoption of this technology by the construction industry.

There are three main areas to look at when selecting an estimating system. The company that produces the software, the software itself and the services and training offered for the product. These areas are equally important and should be addressed individually to insure that the investment in a software system will continue to meet your business needs in the future.

The following checklist will help you evaluate these key areas when picking an estimating system.

#	Description	ProEst Estimating	Other System
COMPANY DATA			
1	How Long has the company been in business?	In business since 1976, 30+ Years with a Proven Track Record	
2	How many companies are using your software?	6,500+	
3	Does the company develop all of their own products?	Yes, CMS designs, develops and maintains all of their software products.	
4	What is the technical support and update policy?	Our ProEst Service Plan includes unlimited telephone support and all software updates and enhancements.	
5	Are references available?	Yes, you can call our clients that have been using ProEst for decades.	
PRODUCT INFORMATION			
6	Is the software user-friendly?	Yes, the ProEst software was designed around the Microsoft Office look & feel and has the same easy of use and functionality.	
7	Does the software have both Item and Assembly takeoffs?	Yes, ProEst comes complete with many prebuilt databases of items and assemblies.	
8	How many costs per item does the software accommodate?	ProEst has 5 Costs Per Item including Material, labor, SubContractor, Equipment and Other.	
9	Are there multiple levels of markups?	Yes, Taxes, Burdens, Overhead, Profit as well as single line markups and a Bond Table.	
10	Can an estimate be broken down and organized by Location or Area?	Yes, the locations are user-definable and unlimited in number.	

11	Can an estimate be broken down by Phase or Work Breakdown Structure?	Yes, user definable and alpha numeric.	
12	Does the software have a centralized cost table?	Yes, the cost table in ProEst allows the user to update thousands of items with 1 change.	
13	Does the software allow for Subcontract & Vendor quote comparison?	Yes, Input multiple sub-contractor or material vendors and select the best cost solution.	
14	Does the system maintain job cost codes per item?	Yes, the ProEst software allows the user to assign job cost codes to all items. The software interfaces with over 20 accounting and job cost systems.	
15	Will the software import trade databases?	Yes, the ProEst system will import RS Means, Trade Service, Allpriser as well as standard text files from suppliers.	
16	Does the system have formulas and are they user-definable?	Yes, the formulas are completely user-definable for custom takeoffs.	
17	Can you customize your own reports?	Yes, ProEst has a built-in report generator to create the exact output your company requires.	
18	Can we move to a more advanced system as our company grows?	Yes, the ProEst software is offered in multiple levels to help meet your needs at every stage of your business.	
19	How often are major updates released?	The ProEst system has a major release every 12-24 months. This helps stay current with new operating system releases and the changing construction industry.	
20	Is the software compatible with other industry-leading applications?	Yes, the ProEst system has over 20 accounting interfaces as well as links to Cad, scheduling and the Microsoft Office products.	
SUPPORT & TRAINING			
21	Is training available and in what formats?	Yes, Web-Based, On-Site and Quarterly classes held at our San Diego location.	
22	Is online or web-based support available?	Yes, It is included in our ProEst Service Plan.	

As we mentioned earlier, we have a sincere interest in the successful adoption of this technology by the construction Industry. If there are any other questions or concerns that we did not address in this report, please feel free to call us for more information.