

Build Your Construction Business around Microsoft Dynamics SL

For architecture, engineering, and construction firms, Microsoft Dynamics™ SL offers many advantages over competitors. Tight integration between the project accounting and core financial modules in Microsoft Dynamics SL facilitates accurate and prompt job-costing. In addition, project managers receive budget versus actual and cost-to-complete reports with the information and timeliness needed to impact the project's financial performance.

Information technology can be a strategic advantage that enables your business to drive profitability and growth, so it's important to choose the right technology foundation. Microsoft Dynamics SL provides an anchor for your long-term IT strategy and works with the Microsoft technologies and products you use now—or may use in the future. A dedicated community of Microsoft Certified Partners offers complementary integrated capabilities for Microsoft Dynamics SL construction solutions, such as project collaboration, document imaging, document management, routing/workflow, and shop-floor control.

Technology Foundation for Growth

Microsoft Dynamics SL allows growing companies to start with a solid project accounting and financial management system, then extend the solution as the business grows and processes develop. What's more, Microsoft Dynamics SL integrates with other systems and technologies, allowing your company to easily extend the solution when needed. Technical strengths include:

- ▶ **Built on industry-standard programming technologies.** Microsoft Dynamics SL is based on programming technologies that enjoy broad support among developers and third-party software vendors, ensuring you have the ability to build-out and customize your solution in the future.
- ▶ **Uses the SQL Server™ 2005 database.** SQL Server 2005 provides industry-leading database functionality for Microsoft Dynamics SL and acts as a powerful engine for your business applications. SQL Server 2005 offers native data encryption, access control with an audit trail, and the ability to restore the database from a point-in-time. In contrast, Sage Timberline Office relies on decades-old Btrieve database technology. Because Btrieve-based databases are burdened with complicated legacy code and lack the flexibility of SQL Server 2005 and other relational databases, they can introduce stability issues and complicate integrations with external reporting systems or other business software.
- ▶ **Meets evolving business needs.** With Microsoft Dynamics SL, you can easily tap into the full range of Microsoft technology and products, as shown in Figure 1. For example, Microsoft Dynamics SL works with SharePoint® products and technologies to provide content management, and communication and collaboration capabilities. And integration with SQL Server 2005 allows you to add advanced business intelligence and analytics solutions such as Business Information Optimization (BIO®) for Microsoft Dynamics SL.
- ▶ **Takes advantage of Microsoft productivity software.** Out-of-the-box, Microsoft Dynamics SL works with Microsoft Office Excel®, Microsoft Office Outlook®, and Microsoft Project. By taking advantage of familiar productivity applications to automate processes, you can boost your people's productivity and allow them to focus on tasks that add the most value to your business.

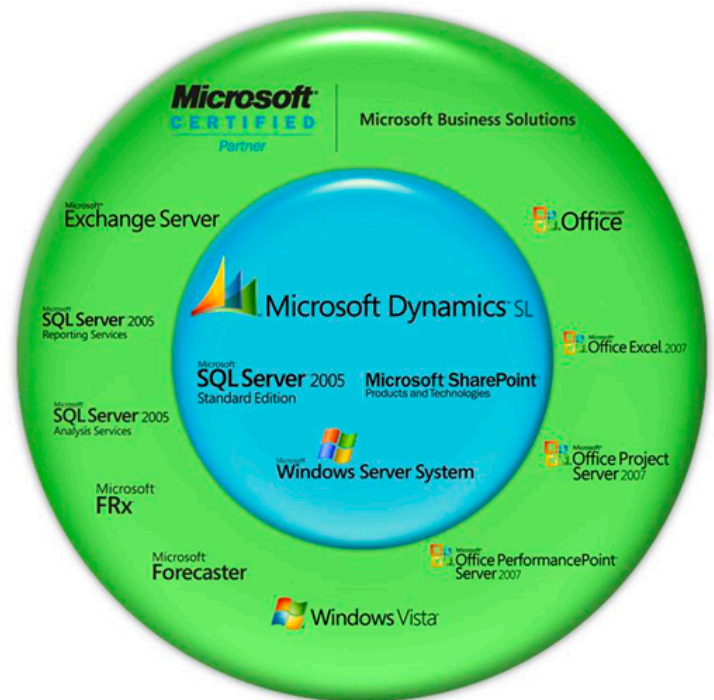


Figure 1. Microsoft Dynamics SL provides an anchor for a long-term IT strategy.

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Integrated Systems Power Improved Productivity

People drive business success, and Microsoft Dynamics SL gives your people the tools they need to perform. Tight integration between purchasing, inventory control, and accounting functions help your people speed business processes and increase profitability.

- ▶ **Equips project managers to manage for profitability.** Microsoft Dynamics SL ties together project accounting and financial management systems, so project managers have the information they need, when they need it. Microsoft Dynamics SL automatically updates payroll, purchasing, and other accounting functions with job-cost data such as time and expense, so projected costs are always current—including purchase orders and change orders. Integrated systems also allow project managers to drill down on any item to the transaction level.
- ▶ **Helps accounting departments close monthly financial reports fast.** Microsoft Dynamics SL automates accounting processes to simplify monthly closings. With fewer manual processes and minimal redundant data entry, accountants need less time to prepare critical monthly reports.
- ▶ **Extends system access to the job site.** The business portal in Microsoft Dynamics SL 6.5, based on SharePoint products and technologies, provides real-time project information to managers in the field. Project managers can enter time and expense information from the job site, which helps to produce accurate job-cost reports. To speed purchases, project managers can use the business portal to start the purchasing process through the Requisition module.

Enhanced Decision-Making

Role-based views ensure that people have the right information at the right time, in an easy-to-understand format. For example, online dashboards can provide instant access to key performance indicators and reports that give decision-makers quick views into work-in-progress, cash flow, and project percent complete. Similarly, Web portals provide role-based access to business forms and processes so that people can quickly act on information. Microsoft Dynamics SL also provides immediate visibility across all aspects of a project, allowing project managers to assess budgeted cost against actual cost and cost-to-completion forecasts.

Safe Investment and Low Total-Cost-of-Ownership

Microsoft Dynamics SL is a safe investment for construction firms. Not only does Microsoft Dynamics SL offer competitive initial cost, it provides construction companies a stable business-management solution that can grow along with their IT ambitions.

When you implement Microsoft Dynamics SL, a local, Microsoft Certified Partner with proven experience in the construction industry will help reduce implementation risk and tailor Microsoft Dynamics SL to fit your business's unique requirements. In addition, Microsoft offers a range of service and support options that provide additional security for your investment.

Continued Innovation with Microsoft Dynamics SL

Microsoft is committed to the construction industry and reflects the needs of construction-industry customers in product planning and updates. With Microsoft Dynamics SL, you benefit from Microsoft's sustained investments in business-management solutions. Start small now with Microsoft Dynamics SL and add functionality as needed, knowing that Microsoft and its partners are there to support your company's business objectives.

For More Information

To find out more about Microsoft Dynamics SL solutions for the architecture, engineering, and construction industry, please visit www.microsoft.com/dynamics/sl.

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