



Automated Rental Management Solutions – Close Up

Concrete Results

Contractors across the state of Kansas look to M6 Concrete Accessories (M6) for quality products and services delivered professionally and on time. For thirty years, the Wichita based company has grown and expanded its services and now offers concrete supplies, rebar fabrication, equipment sales and rentals, and specialty construction products from two locations.

A Bumpy Road

The company was successful in spite of the inefficiencies of its business software. A highly customized SBT accounting installation had not been updated in five years, and a recent change in ownership left M6 with no clear license to the software. And the specialized rental management software used offered no integration with SBT. “The workload involved in trying to get cohesive information was unreal,” recalls Elizabeth Deck, M6’s Controller, “All accounting information had to be double entered into both systems. Our rental business manager spent three hours out of each day just duplicating the previous day’s business.”

The Foundation For Success

Deck began searching for an integrated accounting and rental management package. She sent out twelve requests for proposal, and then Deck and staff viewed demonstrations by four of the six who responded. However, three failed Deck’s standards for integration, “They were like someone tied a shoe string on to it...just stuck together,

and completely unauditible!”

The single solution left standing was the winning combination of MAS 90 with the Automated Rental Management (ARM) solution developed by Business Computer Systems. The ARM system features a comprehensive accounting and rental management solution, including MAS 90 for core accounting functions, and several rental-specific modules managing reservations, equipment maintenance, and delivery scheduling. “We knew we had found what we were looking for,” says Deck.

They came on-site to implement ARM, and three days later M6 went *live*. “It was the very best software implementation I have ever been a part of,” explains Deck, “Even with the extremely short time frame we allowed, we had only minor issues, and none of them prevented our use of the system.”

Solid Customer Service Tools

Now when a customer calls to rent a piece of equipment, one of the eight members of the sales staff can quickly set up a contract in ARM, and check availability of the requested item with a single keystroke. Once a piece of equipment is reserved, ARM automatically tags the item as committed for the contract period. A handy calendar view offers a graphical representation of the current commitments for each item. ARM automatically prompts the staff to offer accessory items and supplies associated with the equipment. Deck feels the customer service they are able to offer with ARM is outstanding, due in large part to the quick access to information ARM provides. A rental uti-



Automated Rental Management removes the guess work and greatly improved M6’s rental invoicing process

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lization report provides valuable insight into the profitability of each piece of equipment with facts such as the number of days rented, the revenue generated and the cost of repairs.

M6 Concrete Accessories maintains a large showroom for both rentals and sales of equipment. Using the cash management features of ARM, M6 has set up multiple cash drawers and can receive payments and deposits on contracts and invoices from the showroom floor. Informative reports and the natural flow of data from ARM into the accounts receivable module simplify reconciliation at the end of each day. The repetitive billing feature of ARM helps ensure the accuracy of long-term rental contracts. In their previous system, such contracts were tracked outside of the software. Deck had to remember when to bill a client, how much to bill for, and then manually key the invoices into the accounting software. "It feels like we have eliminated half our workload since there is no duplication," Deck explains, "We know in an instant what equipment is in, where it is, who should be billed, who has been billed, who has paid, and who hasn't paid."

In addition to rentals, M6 sells concrete equipment and supplies. The MAS 90 sales order module suits this aspect of the business perfectly. The same customer may both rent and buy equipment and since ARM is completely integrated with MAS 90 there is a single location where all of the customer's account activity can be viewed. "The detail we get from ARM is awesome!" Deck notes, "The accessibility and availability of the data is so much better than we ever had before."

Firm Financial Information

FRx Financial Reporter has won Deck's admiration. With the old

system, Deck estimates that 30% of her workload was extracting data from SBT and keying it into Excel, "There was no audit trail—I could not even produce financial statements." Utilizing the generous collection of standard MAS 90 reports, and several customized FRx reports, Deck is able to produce exactly the financial statements she and the owners need to make better management decisions."

M6 uses the Job Cost module to estimate and then capture the costs associated with their custom rebar fabrication projects.

By comparing actual versus estimated costs, they can effectively monitor the profitability of this service.

Training And Support

Deck appreciates the knowledgeable, responsive support staff at ARM. "We needed assistance after hours on one occasion, and their staff waited for us, really going above and beyond." In addition to the training provided during the implementation, key employees attended a two-day extensive training course offered by the ARM team at their San Antonio offices.

The combination of an award winning accounting system and a comprehensive rental management system truly represent a complete business management solution for M6 Concrete Accessories. Deck determined that by eliminating the redundant data entry required

by their old system, ARM and MAS 90 have saved M6 the labor of one full time person—a resource now being put to much better use. You could say they have helped *pave the way* for the next thirty years of success.



ARM has made it very easy for M6 to know what it can rent or where the equipment will be at any point

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Headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, our firm has specialized in the rental industry and MAS 90 accounting software since 1986.

Since our firm supports over 200 rental companies like yours, you can be assured of our experience and expertise in solving your business problems.

If you need take control of your rental business, we would like to talk with you to see if Automated Rental Management is the right solution for you.

