WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff uses Newforma software to strengthen teams and reduce risk.

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff is one of the world’s leading engineering firms. But with vast capabilities come bigger teams, bigger projects, and bigger risks. Such large-scale work challenged collaboration and taxed the company’s systems for project information management.

Effective project information management is essential. In addition to improving collaboration, it minimizes the risk of essential information slipping through the cracks – causing delays, cost overruns and potential safety issues.

The company turned to Newforma.

“One of the major risks associated with a construction project is delay of project completion,” says Senior Vice President Patrick McAleese, PE. “Newforma shortens response times and creates a concise record that is hard to dispute, thereby mitigating risk.”

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff has improved management of a number of construction challenges, from information overload to multi-company collaboration. Keep reading for more.
“Direct connections to other Newforma shops strengthen collaboration.”

Collaboration takes time. While constructing the New Balance headquarters (Brighton, Massachusetts), the team was spending too much time waiting for uploads and downloads of large BIM files. And the construction of Assembly Row Block 6 (Somerville, Massachusetts) required data re-entry at the end of each transfer, causing errors and conflicting logs.

As a solution, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff implemented Newforma-to-Newforma connectivity with its partners John Moriarty & Associates, Elkus Manfredi Architects, and Stantec. N2N’s shared folders made file transfers automatic and seamless, and eliminated double-entry of data.

“Direct connections to other Newforma shops strengthen collaboration, which is vital given the pace of design iteration on BIM projects,” says Senior Associate Michael O’Toole. “And we’ve cut about 30 percent from the time it takes to receive, log and respond to RFIs and submittals.”

Prompt responses keep projects on schedule.

While constructing One World Trade Center (New York, New York), the team found it used up to 20 percent of its time looking for information. To recapture time, the company implemented Newforma software. Among its capabilities are keyword searches of the project’s emails, specs and drawings.

Additionally, the firm wanted to shorten the time spent processing submittals and requests for information. WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff uses Newforma software to manage contract administration in a way that preserves the schedule and eliminates confusion among the extended project team.

Punch lists become faster and easier to manage.

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff employed Newforma apps to streamline an otherwise-cumbersome punch list process on the National Museum of African American History and Culture (Washington, D.C.). Instead of lugging plans and a camera around the job site, and delaying task assignments until the punch list was compiled back at the office, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff engineers used Newforma apps to view plans and capture and assign punch list items.

The apps integrate with software used at the desk, eliminating duplicate data entry.

“By closing the gap between the field and office, Newforma removes delays in construction and project closeout,” Michael O’Toole said. “As project information and collaboration increase, we’re equipped to keep pace and grow.”