



Paper or Paperless: Hensel Phelps meets the challenges of modern Construction Management

Hensel Phelps describes itself as a company that designs, builds, and manages major construction projects for commercial, military and governmental organizations. With more than a dozen offices across the United States and over 2,700 employees, Hensel Phelps continues to refine its processes to ensure performance and profitability.



Industry sector: Architecture, Engineering & GIS

Business name: Hensel Phelps

Headquarters: Greeley, Colorado, USA

Testimonial from: Chad Neukirch, Area Superintendent, Southeast District, Hensel Phelps

HP solution: HP DesignJet T2500 Multifunction Printer

Annual turnover: \$3.4 billion

Website: henselphelps.com



Challenge

“When fulfilling major contracts, clear communication and accurate documentation is essential to get the job done on time and under budget. Finding the best way to do this when working with a multitude of subcontractors has a tremendous impact on our success.”

Chad Neukirch, Area Superintendent, Southeast District, Hensel Phelps



Blending the traditional and the digital

Like most modern organizations, Hensel Phelps establishes policies and processes aimed at streamlining work while ensuring that efficiency and good communication isn't compromised.

“For large projects, we've been doing more things electronically and reducing paper use,” says Chad Neukirch, Area Superintendent, Southeast District, Hensel Phelps. “This works well when working with larger subcontractors on major projects.”

However, when the company was under contract to renovate ten venues at a theme park only a mile from its Orlando, Florida field construction offices, the paperless process became frayed.

“There were a number of factors that worked against the paperless approach,” Neukirch explains. “First, we had not designed the venues, therefore we were already adapting to someone else's way of doing things. Secondly, we were using a large amount of local subcontractors that were smaller and did not have digital building exposure to BIM (Building Information Modeling) products. While highly skilled, these companies did not have the resources or experience of working without paper. Lastly, we had only 90 days to complete the renovation of these ten venues. Teaching people how to work without paper wasn't an option,” says Neukirch.

The first venue received 105 changes, in 90 days. At that point Neukirch realized he would have to try a new approach.

Solution

“I contacted Ron Perkins, President of Jobsite Tech Group, who is a great resource for anything construction & technology related, and he put me in touch with HP. We put the HP DesignJet T2500 Multifunction Printer at the site construction office and it transformed the way we worked on this project.”

Chad Neukirch, Area Superintendent, Southeast District, Hensel Phelps



Scan, copy and print - accessible documentation for all

The MFP at the site office was used for printing work schedules, plans and other documents, not only for its own staff, but the sub-contractors too. Documents could also be copied or scanned enabling the latest changes to be widely shared.

“Updating and printing new plans at our office wasn't a viable solution,” Neukirch says. “We needed our people in the office to stay focused, not spending time delivering updates to the site a dozen times a day.”

With a wireless Internet connection and the ability to receive emails, the HP DesignJet T2500 MFP printed new plans within moments of arrival¹. With a print speed of 21 seconds per D-size (8.5 x 11 in) sheet, new plans could be in-use with minimal delay.

“Using the MFP, new plans were available each day for the city building inspector's visit,” says Neukirch. “Clear work sequencing charts provided an open view of what each subcontractor should be doing where and when. This eliminated confusion and time-consuming discussions about who was supposed to be working in an area.”

With fine line detail down, and a six color capability (including gray and matte black), the printer can highlight details and features, or be used for rendering and presentation drawings.

“The dual-roll function was helpful, too,” Neukirch says. “We used 24 and 36-inch wide rolls, and switching between them was easy.”

Result

“The level of good visual communication that the HP DesignJet T2500 Multifunction Printer gave us enabled us to complete all ten venue renovations on schedule.”

Chad Neukirch, Area Superintendent, Southeast District, Hensel Phelps



A tool for enabling team efficiency

“With this job, time was critical,” Neukirch says. “With only 90 days for each venue, and the number of changes we received for each venue, we simply would not have been able to meet the deadlines without the HP DesignJet T2500 Multifunction Printer.”

The intuitive functionality of the MFP meant that those needing to use it could learn how quickly. The additional capabilities of scanning and copying and its ability to store data in the Cloud for remote printing, as well as being able to output to FTP, USB or PC, makes it a powerful tool for teams.

“I predict using the HP DesignJet MFP in future work,” says Neukirch. “Often our projects are at remote or restricted sites, so being able to have the latest printed plans within minutes of changes being approved can be a very important benefit.”

“It's hard to say how much time or money the HP DesignJet T2500 Multifunction Printer saved us on the restaurants project. It enabled us to keep our office staff focused; it meant our subcontractors could work efficiently and effectively; and it provided up to the minute documentation to the team on site. It's a cliché, but in this case, the MFP's contribution was priceless,” Neukirch concludes.

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¹ Requires an HP DesignJet ePrint & Share account, Internet connection to the printer, and connected Internet-capable device.