



Florida gets “A” ranking in Merit Shop Scorecard, ranking highest in nation

Designers overestimated load capacity
of critical FIU pedestrian bridge
section: NTSB update report

Florida has seven of the nation’s
10 fastest growing construction
job markets: AGCA

NEW FRONTIERS:
Focusing on technology in
facilities engineering and design

Editor's Viewpoint



By Mark Buckshon
Publisher, Florida Construction News

We're preparing this issue of Florida Construction News for publication just before the Christmas holidays begin, though you'll probably be reading these words in the New Year. The holiday season provides a break-time for reflection and contemplation (as well as family and personal connections) for the year ahead, which I believe will be truly challenging.

Will the multi-year boom that has created labor shortages in Florida's construction market conclude? Will technological changes including modular construction take hold in the marketplace, shaking up traditional relationships and processes?

I cannot say for sure, because we cannot be sure of all of the variables that will impact our business lives in the months ahead. But I know that it is better to be prepared for change than not; and that means understanding what could happen technologically, and designing robust business systems and rules so that you aren't caught off guard if the market shifts quickly.

Regardless of how things turn out, I think 2019 will be an exciting and challenging year, and I'm looking forward to the months ahead.

Let us know if there are stories you would like to share, or topics you would like us to cover. You can reach me by email at buckshon@floridaconstructionnews.com or by phone at (888) 627-8717 ext 224.

Here's how to build your business in Florida's architecture, engineering and construction community

You can achieve measurable results, within days

FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION NEWS

For more information, please visit the Your Business Promotion/Publicity page at Floridaconstructionnews.com, or email Chase: chase@floridaconstructionnews.com. You can also call toll free at 888-627-8717 ext 212.



FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Florida Construction News combines a bi-monthly magazine with a weekly newsletter and a website (updated daily), delivering news, analysis and networking opportunities to Florida's architecture, engineering and construction community. The magazine is distributed primarily online to 9,000 general contractors, specialty contractors, developers, professional services and building owners throughout Florida.

For more information on promoting your business to our audience and to request rates, see the advertising rates page on the Floridaconstructionnews.com website. You can also contact **Chase** at chase@floridaconstructionnews.com or phone him at 888-627-8717 ext 212.

You can send editorial news releases and announcements to **Mark Buckshon** at buckshon@floridaconstructionnews.com.

Florida Construction News is published by Construction News and Report Publishing Inc. 332 S Michigan Ave, Ste 1032 - C319, Chicago IL 60604-4434.

Publisher:	Chase
Interim editor:	Mark Buckshon
Production and design:	Raymond Leveille
Administration:	Katherine Jeffrey, Kathy Lepage

Printed subscriptions

You can request a printed single copy for \$18.95 (postage included) or a four issue printed subscription for \$60.00 at the floridaconstructionnews.com website.

Alternatively, you can read the digital version free of charge online at Floridaconstructionnews.com.

Florida gets "A" ranking in Merit Shop Scorecard, ranking highest in nation

Florida Construction News staff writer

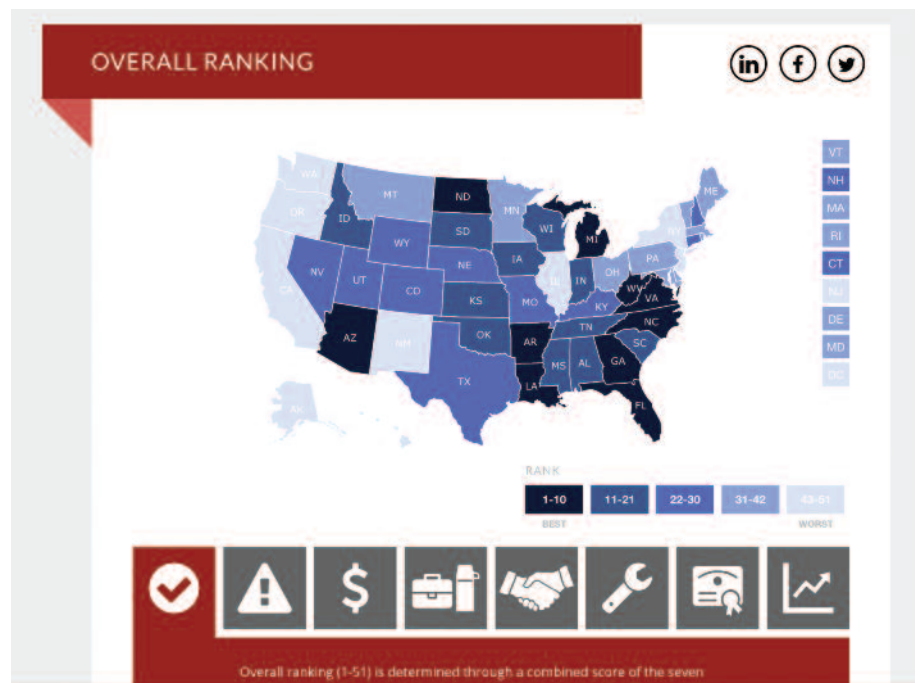
Florida topped the list this year for the Associated Builders and Contractors' (ABC) 2018 Merit Shop Scorecard, an annual annual state ranking based by the non-union contractors' group "on policies and programs that encourage open competition, education and job growth, and award construction contracts based solely on merit, regardless of labor affiliation."

Florida vaulted from ninth position in 2017 to first based on the state's free-enterprise and open-competition approach to the construction sector, increased career and technical education opportunities and job growth rates. Meanwhile, Michigan saw the biggest improvement in its ranking, rocketing from 24th in 2017 to seventh this year after the repeal of its prevailing wage law, which will result in greater competition and lower costs for construction projects.

The Florida Merit Shop Scorecard details

"States like Florida and Michigan have built an environment that allows merit shop construction contractors to thrive," said Ben Brubeck, ABC's vice-president of regulatory, labor and state affairs. "Prioritizing policies that support small business owners, the American worker and the overall construction sector spurs economic growth, which directly leads to more projects and therefore more construction jobs across the country."

Comparatively, California tumbled from 38th to 50th this year due to a decreased focus on workforce development and careers in technical education, which remains a priority for ABC members and the overall construction sector. Califor-



nia was trailed only by Illinois, which was ranked last for the second year in a row with an F rating in project labor agreements, prevailing wage, Right to Work and workforce development incentives, according to ABC's scorecard.

"Much of the movement up and down in the rankings was due in part to the level of state policy-maker support for workforce development and technical education," said Brubeck. "With an estimated 500,000 open construction positions in the United States, it is es-

sential that states prioritize workforce policies that recruit, educate and benefit the American worker and fill the skills gap."

Now in its fourth year, *Building America: The Merit Shop Scorecard* rates state laws, programs, policies and statistics to highlight those that have created the conditions for growth and identify areas where strategic improvements are needed.

Criteria and definitions are available at meritshopscorecard.org.



Designers overestimated load capacity of critical FIU pedestrian bridge section: NTSB update report

Florida Construction News staff writer

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) says in an investigative update about the fatal Florida International University (FIU) pedestrian bridge collapse in Miami that errors were made in the design of the 174-foot span, and that cracking observed before the collapse is consistent with those errors.

Six people died and eight others were injured when the bridge collapsed on March 15, 2018. Eight vehicles were crushed in the collapse, and seven of the vehicles were occupied, the NTSB says in its mid-November update.

Munilla Construction Management built the structure based on designs from FIGG Bridge Group (FIGG).

Two days before the collapse, a FIGG engineer left a voicemail for Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) officials to report cracking had been found at one end of the concrete span, but the company did not think it was an issue, the Associated Press has reported.

State officials did not hear the voicemail until after the collapse. University officials said DOT officials had been included in a meeting to discuss the cracking hours before the collapse.

The NTSB update states errors made were in the design of the northernmost nodal region of the span where two truss members were connected to the bridge deck. The design errors resulted in an overestimation of the capacity (resistance) of a critical section through the node, and, an apparent underestimation of the demand (load) on that section.

The design review was conducted by the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Bridges and Structures in support of the NTSB's ongoing investigation. The Federal Highway Administration is a party to the NTSB's investigation.

The Turner-Fairbanks Highway Research Center, part of the Federal Highway Administration, conducted numerous tests and examinations of concrete and steel samples taken from the bridge following its collapse. The concrete and steel specimens tested by Turner-Fairbanks Highway Research Center personnel met the project's build plans specified minimum requirements.

Findings from the materials tests include:

- Concrete core specimens from the bridge deck and bridge canopy met the compression requirements in the project plans;
- The design plans specified concrete used for the project had to be in accordance with Florida Department of Transportation specifications. All specimens



Samples of rebar recovered from the collapsed FIU pedestrian bridge, await transport to the Federal Highway Administration's Turner-Fairbanks Highway Research Center, where the samples underwent materials testing as part of the NTSB's ongoing investigation of the March 15, 2018, fatal, bridge collapse. (NTSB photo by Adrienne Lamm)

from the bridge deck and bridge canopy were within the specified range for total air content; and

- Tension test results of size #5, #8 and #11 steel reinforcing bars revealed all met minimum yield and tensile strengths and percent elongation at fracture, for their respective sizes. Size #7 bars could not be tested due to collapse-induced deformation.

The NTSB's investigation of the bridge collapse is ongoing and the information contained in the investigative update is preliminary and will be supplemented or corrected as the investigation progresses. As such, no conclusions about probable cause should be drawn from the information contained in the investigative update, the agency says.

The investigative update is available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xPGnG>.

Discover more construction, more cities, more opportunities

www.floridaconstructionnews.com
www.ncconstructionnews.com
www.chicagoconstructionnews.com
www.newyorkconstructionreport.com
www.newjerseyconstructionnews.com
www.californiaconstructionnews.com
www.indianaconstructionnews.com
www.cadcr.com

For more information about the opportunities
Call Chase: 1-888-627-8717 Ext. 212
chase@floridaconstructionnews.com

Florida has seven of the nation's 10 fastest growing construction job markets: AGCA

Florida Construction News staff writer

Data recently released by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) indicates that seven of the 10 fastest-growing construction job markets in the country are in Florida.

The Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island metro area had the fastest rate of construction-employment growth nationwide during the September-to-September period (27 percent). The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro area had the third-fastest growth rate (22 percent). Cape Coral-Fort Myers had the fifth-fastest rate (20 percent).

Rounding out the top 10 were the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford and Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach metro areas, which, at 17 percent, each tied for the seventh-fastest rate of job growth. And the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach and the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville metro areas tied for ninth-fastest rate at 15 percent each.

Meanwhile, the state added 3,000 new construction jobs between September and October, according to federal Labor Department data. However, this growth – at 23rd in the nation – reflects a slow-down from overall annual employment growth from October 2017, which had placed the state sixth nationally – with an increase of 43,400 employees to a total of 552,000 – an increase of 8.5 percent for the year.

“Construction activity continues to expand at a steady clip, with employment growing by more than 10 percent during the past year in five states and by more than five percent in another 18 states,” said chief economist Ken Simonson. “As contractors pay more for labor and most of the materials they use to build, construction costs will climb, potentially dampening future demand for their services.

Association officials said in a statement that widespread construction employment gains are a sign of strong demand for construction services in most parts of the country. But they cautioned that without new investments in career and technical education, immigration reform and swift resolution of trade disputes, labor and materials costs will continue to climb.

“Firms in many parts of the country are hiring as fast as they can find qualified workers to bring on-board just to keep pace with demand,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the AGCA’s chief executive officer. “But at some point, the increasing costs of labor and construction materials are going to drive construction prices to the point where many customers reschedule or rethink their projects.”



Finally, a financing partner that helps you do more business.

More approvals, less effort with OneApp™

The Renovate America mobile app makes applying for home improvement financing faster and simpler than ever - and can bump up your approval rates to 70%*.

Receive better support, tools and training

From day one, you receive sales training and back office support from experienced account managers. We'll also help your prospective customers apply and receive financing decisions in as little as two minutes.

Get seen by more qualified customers

The Renovate America Marketplace makes it easy for more qualified homeowners to connect with you, with contractor search tools, maps, and social media ratings.



Learn more. renovateamerica.com/contractors
or call us at **1-844-722-7759**

*The majority of contractors may see approval rates up to 70%. Projected combined approval rate based on applicant pool and applicable underwriting criteria from 4/1/18 to 6/1/18.

NEW FRONTIERS: Focusing on technology in facilities engineering and design

By Russell Clarke and Greg Powell
Special to Florida Construction News

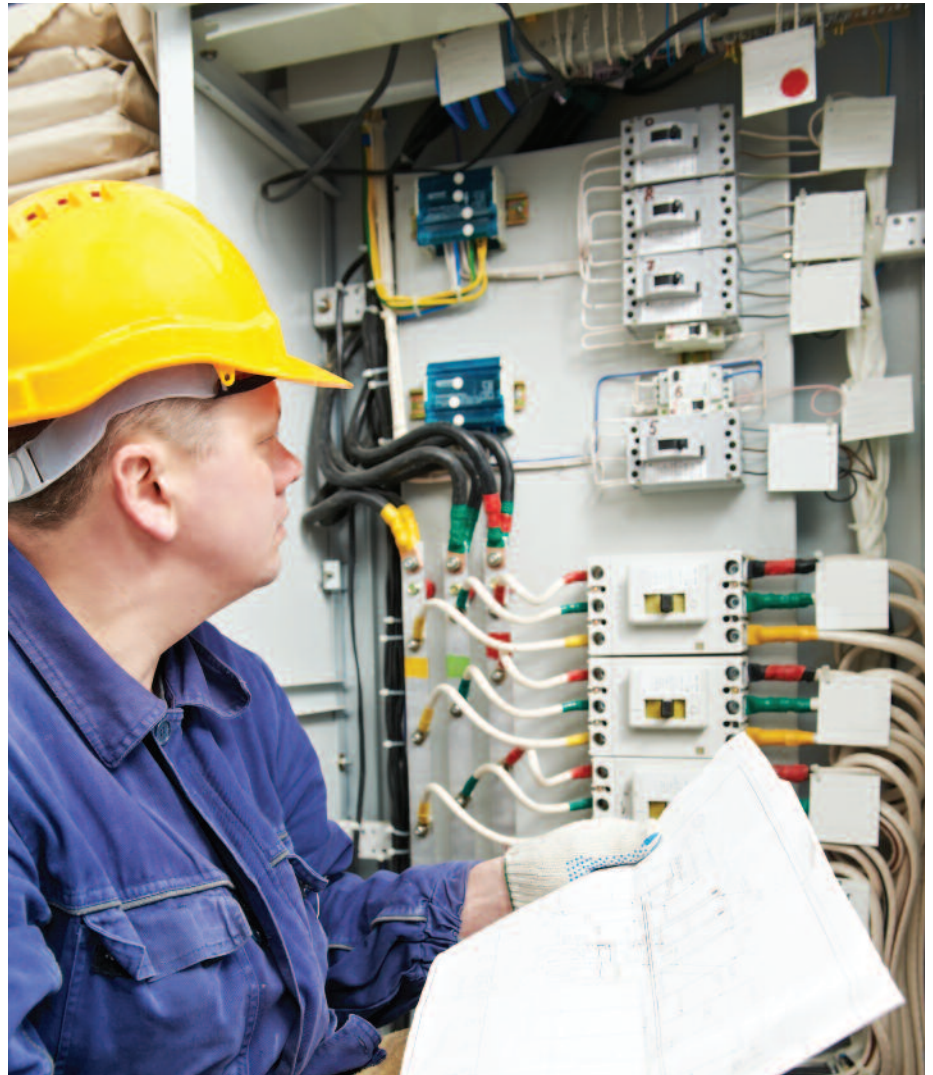
The continued infiltration of technology into our daily lives has brought with it advanced capabilities, new efficiencies and greater connectivity on many different levels. It has also brought headaches along the way. This same dynamic (of technology advances causing heightened expectations and complexity) is occurring in today's facilities and buildings industry—driving the need for skilled technology-focused engineers to design, integrate, maintain and maximize the increasingly complex, integrated and connected systems.

Technology design and system integration expertise is developing into a prerequisite for engineering firms focused on vertical buildings, allowing firms with strong system integration skill sets and user-friendly analytical tools to capture a growing market need.

Key benefits accrue to those firms that can extend their technological expertise and capabilities across a broader range of the facility project life cycle—spanning the upfront design, systems integration and ongoing technical service needs. This depth of expertise positions the provider as the first call for new projects, as well as the trusted advisor for future facility needs.

What Is driving the change?

Simply put, today's buildings are more complex and sophisticated than in the past, and people have higher expectations from their buildings. No longer are well-functioning HVAC systems, smart lighting, strong Wi-Fi, video-enabled meeting rooms and classrooms, and easy controls things that building stakeholders want—these are now things they



have come to expect. New buildings are designed and built with the latest technology systems, and owners are retrofitting older building stock with new technologies. These systems have made significant strides from those even five years ago, and now stakeholders expect them to interact and function seamlessly as one.

Analysts predict there will be over 25 billion connected things in use in 2020, a major increase from the 4.9 billion in 2015. Sensors and systems are interacting to deliver optimal temperature, air quality, lighting levels

and security. As these traditionally separate systems are integrated and controlled as one, the ability to enable effective interaction is more critical than ever before.

Garry Montgomery, vice-president and head of technology at Dynamix Engineering, states, "It is also the most rapidly changing building system. Technology systems impact workflow, efficiency, expectations, safety, communication, connectivity and so many other things."

The skill set needed to design and then blend multiple systems to func-

tion as intended is most valuable. Without the proper integration of open protocol systems, buildings will remain stuck in decades past, even despite having the most up-to-date “smart” systems. Additionally, engineering firms with a product-agnostic stance and flexible capabilities can best allow the integration to take precedent over the product. Facility stakeholders can therefore achieve the goal of smooth and proper functionality—all without being reliant on one brand name, proprietary system or specialty service provider.

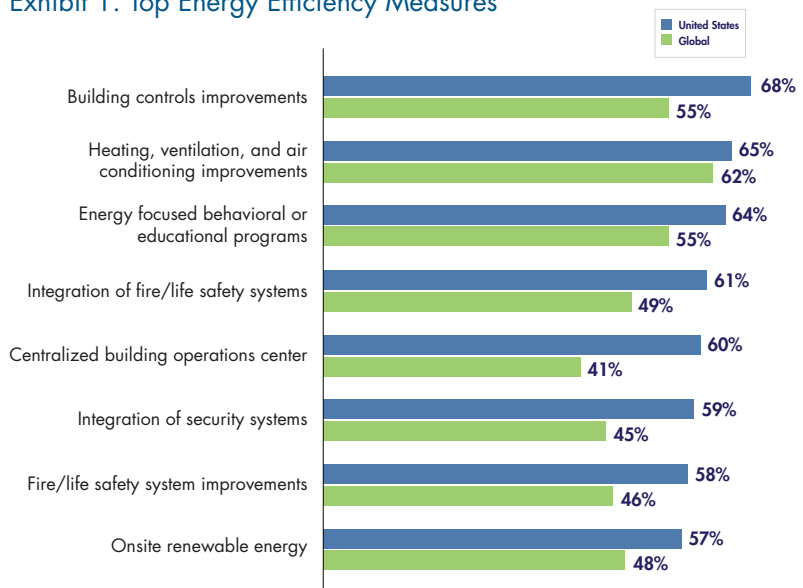
Roles of service providers are continuing to blend as facilities become smarter and more connected. The blending of these roles further drives the need for someone that can “make sense of it all” and bring the many moving (and traditionally independent roles) together to work as one. No longer does only the facilities manager control the building. The roles of HVAC service companies, electricians and facility service providers are all evolving as well, with each entity relying on data-driven, connected systems. In many cases, facility managers act as the boots on the ground but don’t necessarily know how to utilize the data and analytics. Engineering firms with these technology and analytical capabilities can help with both pro-active and reactive systems management and optimization.

These firms bring significant value by analyzing systems data to plan for maintenance activities and direct the boots on the ground to correct problems as they arise. This solution relies on technologically sophisticated engineers who can design, internalize and leverage systems data through remote monitoring. As this capability becomes more widespread, the value that these outside providers bring to on-site facility and IT managers will continue to grow.

What are the skill sets?

The ability to bring fully functioning systems, simplicity and actionable insights to end users requires a unique blend of skill sets. These skill sets span the facility life cycle from

Exhibit 1. Top Energy Efficiency Measures



Source: “2018 Energy Efficiency Indicator Survey. United States.” Johnson Controls. 2018.

Opportunity abounds

The market is demanding increased technology capabilities across all facility service providers, but the landscape of skilled providers as well as the underlying talent base remains fragmented. Firms that recognize, develop and prioritize expertise in the initial design of technology systems, system integration and ongoing technical services are likely to benefit significantly. Capitalizing on this opportunity has greatly benefited early movers in the industry and may benefit many additional firms as technologies continue to advance and become further embedded in today’s facilities.

initial technology design to integration expertise and remote monitoring of building systems.

Initial design for technology-focused systems

Designing the data, voice, video, network, energy management, security and similar systems is a growing skill set and key differentiator for design engineering firms working on large vertical building projects. The ability to sell these services separately from more traditional MEP engineering services also provides inroads into new projects at an earlier phase, where the technology component of the project can lead to an expanded role and future work.

Montgomery sums up the point, “Technology engineering is now the fourth utility in an industry traditionally based around three (mechanical, electrical and plumbing). It is also the most rapidly changing building sys-

tem. Technology systems impact workflow, efficiency, expectations, safety, communication, connectivity and so many other things.”

Systems integration expertise

Vendor-agnostic control system expertise is key to solving problems and delivering an optimized facility. Control system engineering and the ability to connect disparate systems are important to bridging gaps among the mechanical, electrical and security contractors—ensuring proper functionality of the various systems. Control integrators are critical players in the facility landscape, increasing their value beyond the initial project and ongoing maintenance processes.

“There are system integration opportunities that exist today that could never successfully be realized in the past,” Montgomery adds.

Continued commissioning and service mindset

Continuous monitoring and maintenance of facility systems is key to maintaining a “first-call” position with facility owners. The ability to collect and analyze data to help prevent and solve problems is an important core competency that allows stakeholders to derive actionable insights from the massive amounts of data that too often go unused.

In a recent CBRE report, Matthew Eastwood states, “You can measure a million different things—but focus on what you want to control and do it differently.” The ability to collect and analyze data also permits service providers to communicate both proactive and reactive solutions to a facility manager or subcontractor. These teams can then act on-site to troubleshoot the identified issue with purpose, avoiding potential problems and solving issues faster as they arise.

Who has the expertise and skill sets?

The landscape of true technology experts and smart facility providers is not always obviously identified. The unique combination of skill sets needed to bring all of this expertise together currently sits in various places within the broader industry landscape. As time goes on, the skilled leaders will further emerge, and increased consolidation will likely occur. The early leaders able to build a

large base of loyal clients will benefit the most. This evolving competitive landscape will impact industry stakeholders differently:

Engineering firms

Traditional MEP design and consulting engineering firms have varying depths of technology practices—from zero to extremely advanced. Those firms that are more deliberate in developing technology design and integration capabilities across key end markets are more likely to enjoy a stronger competitive position.

“Today, building occupants across all asset types expect 24/7 connectivity and a positive user experience,” says Val Loh, principal at Syska Hennessy Group. “That’s why we view our capabilities in technology design as a core component of our services rather than as a specialty add-on. Because our technology practice is fully integrated into our team structure, we can offer our clients a form of holistic design that differentiates us from other engineering firms.”

Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)

Skilled controls professionals inside OEM organizations are a recognized talent pool in the industry. The difference between an OEM representative and a controls engineer from a product-agnostic firm is the knowledge and ability to integrate one specific product type (as opposed to taking a broader view). As more systems and users move toward open systems not tied to a single product provider, the value assigned to the expertise and ability to work with multiple systems will increase. This will likely pressure the OEM providers to broaden expertise and/or further utilize product-agnostic service providers to execute the integration.

Facility managers

Certain facility managers possess the skill sets needed to optimize building systems, but they’re focused on responding to problems and fixing tangible issues. Utilizing well-designed technology with remote systems expertise, analysis and support from technical service providers, on-site facility managers who live and work with the equipment every day can truly maximize the performance of the buildings they manage.

IT managers

As new technology is integrated into buildings and facilities, and as equipment becomes further integrated, greater reliance and power have shifted to IT managers. IT managers are increasingly the gatekeepers for critical facility system decision-making and troubleshooting. The role of IT staff and the accompanying core information technology knowledge is a key component of today’s properly functioning facility.

As a result, the IT staff is a group that is likely to see an increased share of responsibility among facility stakeholders. Montgomery states, “Additionally, many traditionally managed systems (i.e., building automation systems) are now being managed and operated by IT personnel as



Your Roof Done Right
Since 1948

**We Protect You,
We Protect
Your Investment,
We Make
A Difference**

Low Slope / Flat
Single & multi-ply membranes

Roof Coating / SPF
Liquid applied & spray foam

Maintenance / Repair
Service for most products

Tile
Concrete, clay & custom tiles

Metal
Structural & architectural panels

Shingles
Yes, we do them

R&R Industries
Your Roof Done Right Since 1948

Phone: 386.253-7627

www.YourRoofDoneRight.com CCC0011650

these systems become more data-driven. Organizations/companies desiring to truly separate themselves from the competition are pushing for greater levels of technology and often hiring the professionals that plan/design such systems independent from traditional MEP engineers."

Talented practitioners skilled in the design, integration and ongoing technical services of the technologies embedded in today's facilities are in high demand. The ability to find, retain and train an optimal talent base is hampered by the specialized skill sets spread among these disparate providers. In addition to having a fragmented talent pool, the competition for talented engineers is intense as the technology giants continue to grow. Engineering talent with three to seven years of experience is more valuable than ever, and acquiring such talent is a critical obstacle in building the best facility technology teams.

The acceleration of growth in technology spend

Technology is expanding as a component of overall building investment. This trend offers providers value through revenue diversification from the more traditional design segments and can offer improved margins for those increasingly commoditized firms.

A recent energy efficiency survey by Johnson Controls clearly identifies the expected growth in technology-enabled facility systems and integration (Exhibit 1). Sixty-eight percent of respondents plan to invest in building controls over the next 12 months, up from only 38 percent of respondents two years ago, exceeding Johnson Control's expectations. Survey results show that six of the eight top measures that organizations plan to implement in the next 12 months relate to connected technological building systems requiring specialized design and integration. This trend highlights the significant growth opportunities available to engineering firms in the technology market.

This article was originally published in the FMI Quarterly. FMI Corp. is a Raleigh, North Carolina, based management consultancy and investment banker dedicated exclusively to engineering and construction, infrastructure and the built environment.

Authors are Russell Clark (rclarke@fminet.com), responsible for executing merger and acquisition advisory and capital formation engagements and Greg Powell (gpowell@fminet.com), a managing director with FMI Capital Advisors, Inc., FMI Corporation's investment banking subsidiary.



Russell Clark



Greg Powell

Here's how to build your business in Florida's architecture, engineering and construction community

You can achieve measurable results, within days

If you have upcoming events, business announcements, appointments and opportunities, and wish to attract some quick responses, you will be rewarded with publicity opportunities with Florida Construction News.

Your message will reach 7,592 readers in the weekly eletter*, and in the past month, the Floridaconstructionnews.com website attracted 1,426 unique visits with 4,490 page views.

As well, there are extended opportunities in the Florida Construction News online magazine.

There's more. While we welcome news releases and announcements from everyone, advertisers will always receive priority. (We'll still publish plenty of non-advertiser supported content, of course.) And we can provide you with tracking data and response information so you know how well your advertising is working.

Your one-time \$395.00 investment provides:

- A block/banner advertisement in the weekly eletter for four weeks;
- A banner advertisement (multiple pages) on the Floridaconstructionnews.com websites;
- Opportunity to highlight your event or business in a guest column or news release; and
- Weekly response tracking reports.

FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION NEWS

For more information, please visit the Your Business Promotion/Publicity page at Floridaconstructionnews.com, or email Chase: chaseconstruction@floridaconstructionnews.com. You can also call toll free at 888-627-8717 ext 212.

* Data based on e-list mailing March 10, 2016.



Plaza Construction to build Florida's tallest building



Berkowitz Development Group has hired construction management and general contracting firm Plaza Construction to build what will become Florida's tallest building.

SkyRise Miami, a 1,000-foot-tall entertainment and observation tower, will cost \$540 million to construct.

The Arquitectonica-designed tower will include an indoor drop tower-style ride with a 95-mph descent speed, as well as five observation decks, a 55-mph base-jumping experience, a zero-gravity tunnel, a transparent slide, a transparent deck at 866 feet and a skywalk at 908 feet.

In addition, the tower will have restaurant, music and bar space, an indoor playground, 14,000 sq. ft. of combined event and ballroom space, a 9,500-sq. ft. conference center with another 4,000-sq. ft. area for circulation and an open-air terrace.

The project's design team includes structural and civil engineering firm Magnusson Klemencic Associates and mechanical and electrical engineering firm Cosentini Associates.

Construction is expected to be completed in 2023.

Kaufman Lynn to build H3 Hollywood after new owner closes \$48.65 million loan to restart stalled project

The new owner of H3 Hollywood, a previously unfinished condo development, has closed on

a construction loan to complete the project stalled as a shell since 2016.

Kaufman Lynn Construction is expected to complete the building in less than 18 months.



Hollywood East LLC, led by broker Vivian Dimond and Cristina Pereyra Alvarez, closed on a \$48.65 million construction loan from Trez Forman Capital Group for the unnamed 15-story, 247-unit building on Van Buren Street in Hollywood, according to a statement.

Dimond and a group of investors took over the project last year, settling with the buyers who had put down deposits at what was then H3 Hollywood, a 154-unit condo project being developed by Hollywood Station Investments. Hollywood Station Investments halted construction in the fall of 2016.

The original project's general contractor LB Construction, which won the bid for the project at a foreclosure auction, sold the property in April 2017 to Dimond's Hollywood East LLC.

The previous owner built the shell for 13 of the 15 floors. The building will feature a pool deck on the fifth floor, nearly 4,800 sq. ft. of ground-floor retail space and a 433-space parking garage.

YMCA of Central Florida gets \$8.9 million to build new Orlando project

Dr. Phillips Charities has announced \$8.9 million in funding to the YMCA of Central Florida to build and equip a new family center for the College Park within The Packing District, a 202-acre, \$480-million project at the intersection of Princeton St. and Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando.



The YMCA Family Center will have 24,500 sq. ft. of space spanning two stories. In the future, the family center could expand up to 40,000 sq. ft. of space.

The family center is projected to break ground in late 2019 and be operational by early 2021.

Preparations are underway to ready the site for construction, which will span the next 10 to 15 years in four phases.

\$65 million UF Gators baseball park cleared for construction in February

Construction will start in February for the \$65 million University of Florida's (UF) Gators baseball park in Gainesville, pending UF Trustee Board approval.

The project on the southwest part of the university's campus adjacent to Disney Stadium, has a planned completion date of June 2020. The Gators' first season in the new ballpark will be in 2021.

"This is an exciting day for Gators Baseball and our entire athletic department," athletic director Scott Striklin said in a statement. "While our original hope was to have the

ballpark available at the beginning of 2020, and therefore available for play that season, this period of rising construction prices has required additional time to finalize the design, and has caused us to adjust our timeline by a few months.”

The baseball park and the ongoing \$15 million renovation to softball's Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium, along with renovations to the Gators' track and tennis facilities, are Phase II of the University Athletics Association's (UAA) Facilities Master Plan. The work at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium is nearing completion, with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled Feb. 12.



The UAA says in its news release that design work and planning also continues on the Football Training Complex, which is Phase III of the Facilities Master Plan. This transformational project, which is going on the site currently occupied by baseball's McKethan Stadium, will break ground as soon as the site is available following the Gators' 2020 baseball season, with a completion goal before the end of 2021. In addition, the UAA is moving forward with plans for significant upgrades to the current football locker room in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, which will serve as the game day locker room once the new complex is built.

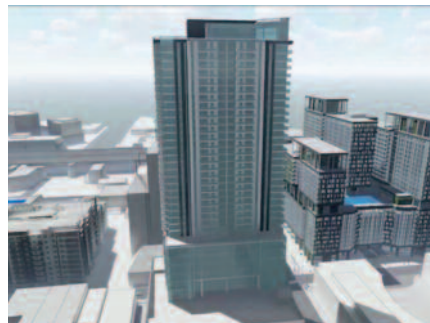
Funding for Phases I-III of the UAA Facility Master Plan, which total \$285 million, includes a target of \$155 million in private support. To date, Gator Boosters, Inc. has received nearly \$86 million in private gift commitments, marking

progress at 55 percent of the necessary philanthropic support for these phases.

Zoi House to be Orlando's tallest structure

Orlando has approved construction of what will be the city's tallest building, says its architect.

Wayne Dunkelberger said Zoi House will include retail, office and apartments. "Zoi" means 'life' in Greek, so at the very top is going to be a pool and pool deck that looks over the city of Orlando, 300 apartments, underneath that will be 6 floors of office, and below that, parking deck."



Miami-based MEC Development Associates and architects Baker Barrios have refined the 41-story structure with a gentle, sweeping curve at the building's most prominent corner at Orange Avenue and Livingston Street, The Orlando Sentinel reports.

The developers say 467-ft. tall Zoi House will be taller than the Orange County Courthouse, as well as the SunTrust Center. "The Courthouse is around 419 feet, and SunTrust around 427," Dunkelberger said.

TRX Investments taps PREMIER for 163,000 sq. ft. industrial project in Hialeah Gardens

U.S.-based real estate developer TRX Investments has tapped PREMIER Design + Build Group, LLC to transform a truck stop on about 8.42 acres of land in Hialeah Gar-

dens into a class A, 163,000 sq. ft. distribution facility. The building has a flexible design and can accommodate tenants from 9,000 sq. ft. The project is owned jointly by TRX and by Everwest Real Estate Partners.

"TRX has been great to work with," says PREMIER project manager Yoan Aedo. "Our teams are in close communication to ensure everything stays on track for completion."

The building has all of the modern features that today's tenants need, such as a 120' deep truck court and a 32' clear height. TRX/Everwest will speculatively construct offices in a number of bays allowing for immediate occupancy.

The building will be constructed of tilt-up concrete slab and structural steel and will include an impact-resistant aluminum storefront system with tinted glass. The single-ply TPO roofing system will feature an ESFR fire suppression system, and 277/480 volt 3-phase, 4-wire electrical service will ensure ample power for commercial operations.

Aedo and Omar Lopez, PREMIER's director of project development, Southeast market leader, are overseeing the project, and RLC Architects is providing architectural services. Engineering services are being provided by DDA Engineers, P.A. (structural); Puga and Associates (mechanical, plumbing and electrical); and Thomas Engineering Group (civil).

The building will be delivered in May 2019 and Devin White, senior vice-president of CBRE, is the exclusive leasing agent.

Your design + build partner from concept to completion



ADAPTIVE REUSE

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

INTERIORS

MEDICAL

MULTIFAMILY



CHICAGO

MIAMI

LOS ANGELES

NEW JERSEY

pdbgroupp.com

CA 1005104 FL 1517224 TN 0064077 LA 46706