CONSTRUCTECH

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Top Products 2008 - Commercial

The goal of the Top Products—as requested by our readers—was to identify the leading technology products on the market today, in no way are the editors of *Constructech* saying these are the only viable products on the market available today.

Quite to the contrary, these products are a mere sampling of the most innovative and successful products at the disposal of the construction industry. What we can assure you, however, is the products listed on the following pages are indeed among the best for commercial construction.

In our inaugural search for *Constructech*'s Top Products our panel of editors took into consideration multiple factors during the judging process. This included the product description, our determination about the product's overall usefulness/uniqueness to the construction industry, and the customer growth rate for this particular product in the market throughout the past few years.

Another important factor we took into consideration was the collective knowledge of the industry from our panel of editors. An accurate assessment of a product goes well beyond what is submitted on an entry form. Reporting on technology on a daily basis, our editors are very familiar with the needs of the commercial construction market and of the vendors in the marketplace.

As with many of our awards programs we received multiple entries from companies that we had never heard of prior to this program. While the descriptions of the product and sampling of customers seemed interesting on some of these applications, we did not feel comfortable tabbing them as a Top Product based simply on an awards entry. In other words, we want to be your eyes and ears for the valuable technology solutions in the market and not just award companies simply for entering.

Therefore, the staff may very well have overlooked a few products that are indeed very useful and innovative for construction, but the editors are very confident that the companies that are included have a strong place in the construction process.

So let's look at how the companies have been chosen. Winners have been separated into four categories. New Products features technology applications that have been in the market for less than two years. Enhanced Products features recent upgrades and/or re-releases of applications that have been in the market at least three years. Trusted Products are familiar applications that have been in the market at least three years. Supportive Technologies feature complimentary systems and technologies that play a critical role to enhancing core business applications.

Our editors took the judging process very seriously, which lead to many passionate discussions about what the name Top Products truly means.

With that in mind, we are determined to continuing to refine our process in subsequent years.

One valuable aspect we will be incorporating is to take suggestions from you, our readers, about the products you are using, why you are using them, and what you hope to achieve by using them. After all, we deliberated for a few days on the products, while you are going through the true ups and downs with these products on a daily, monthly, and yearly process. Just think of what you can teach us and what we can share with all of you from these experiences.

Our hope is that you, the readers of *Constructech*, will play an even greater strong role in shaping and finding the Top Products. For now, we are confident we have kicked off the program with a solid selection of the Top Products for 2008. We are also confident in our selections this year as each vendor has provided sufficient evidence that they are indeed supplying the construction industry with a Top Product.

NEW PRODUCTS:

iSqFt
www.isqft.com
Cincinnati, Ohio

Private Construction Office
As a foundation for the iSqFt Construction Network, the Private Construction Office allows general contractors to securely host project documents, including plans, specs, and addenda online and communicate with bidders throughout the bidding phase, providing them with access to all necessary bid information. Invitations can be sent using the contractor's private vendor database and they can also take advantage of the iSqFt Construction Network to find and reach out to additional bidders in markets across the country. General contractors use the Private Construction Office to reduce inefficiencies throughout preconstruction process and eliminate costs associated with document reproduction and shipping.

iSqFt
www.isqft.com
Cincinnati, Ohio

Internet Plan Room
Subcontractors subscribing to the Internet Plan Room have full access to public construction projects, including all plans, specs, and addenda. Recent enhancements include project search tools, which automatically identify key project information and notifies users.