in site

Air Masters
MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR/ENGINEERS

coins

Mobile Technician and CRM to take customer service and sales to the next level at Air Masters.
See their article on Page 3

Data Replication at PAR Electric

PAR Electrical Contractors has embraced the automation, bandwidth and speed of modern business by working with COINS Technical Services to implement a new data replication configuration. PAR, a Quanta Services Company, is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri and operates throughout the USA.

COINS Technical Services provides clients with one stop shopping for COINS server hardware and database configurations. As a certified IBM reseller, COINS provides all the services required to properly size, configure and deploy fast, reliable and resilient COINS servers for its clients. Recently, there has been a lot of client interest in real time database replication to protect and increase the resiliency of COINS deployments.

Real time replication allows COINS data to be saved to two different COINS servers (source and target) at the same time. If the primary production server (the source) becomes unavailable, COINS users can continue work using the target server (a.k.a. the Disaster Recovery (DR) server) with minimal down time. Two target servers (physical or virtual) are deployed to accomplish replication; they are typically installed in different cities than the source server. "In our case, we chose two virtual servers for the replication and backup and one physical server for production," said Oren Birks, IT Manager for PAR.

COINS recently modified the target DR server configuration to allow for easy, anytime, push-of-a-button DR server tests - a great enhancement for anyone needing to pass a Sarbanes–Oxley (SOX) technical audit, since the DR test can be conducted at any time. "Being a public company, we are required to test our backup quarterly; but with replication in place; we now test monthly," Oren stated.

The new configuration allows a complete running copy of COINS on the DR server with the client's data to always be available for user testing. A separate area on the DR server contains an active replication target of the production databases. With the selection of a menu item, the replicated target database is copied to the DR copy of COINS. This means the DR server can be refreshed whenever necessary with up-to-the-second data. This refresh does not interfere with the primary source production server and can be repeated as often as desired. Oren commented, "This has saved us a tremendous amount of time. We used to only perform differential backups each night and saved full backups for the weekend. Now the full backup that once took 24 hours is done each night, and it takes 8 minutes to copy it to the DR server with no additional overhead required."

> **Here at PAR we had been using a manual backup process involving third party software that was cumbersome and time consuming. When looking to streamline our business continuity, replication rose to the surface in our discussions with COINS**
>
> Oren Birks, IT Manager for PAR

Being able to test a COINS DR plan with current data "at will" can provide a feeling of security. Faulty tape drives and pending storms will not seem so ominous when data is automatically being replicated off-site to a DR server that is configured and ready to go. "We know that within 45 minutes of the production server going down," stated Oren, "we can be up and running with 100% availability on the DR server."

Oren said that he would recommend replication to other businesses looking for a reliable, easily administered business continuity solution with a focus on continuity. He concluded, "It has allowed us to embrace the automation, bandwidth and the speed of modern business!" Contact COINS Technical Services to discuss the benefit of upgraded hardware and real time data replication.

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Construction Industry Solutions

Improving customer service and sales was a main driver in Air Masters Corporation's decision to select COINS OA. John Rundquist, President of Air Masters, stated, "Mobile Technician and CRM are two new features that will be implemented, and we see them as an opportunity to better serve our clients. For example, Mobile Technician will allow the field to have direct access to customer equipment and maintenance records while onsite."

Air Masters selects COINS OA

Construction and service jobs are tracked on a single cost ledger within COINS OA and easily provide profitability information across lines of business and customers. This will eliminate the need to pull in and manually combine financial information separately from service and jobs.

John states that Air Masters sees features in COINS OA that will be a huge time saver for them, such as the ability to quickly change the site to which a customer belongs without losing the equipment's history at the site. "Other features that attracted us to COINS OA are the export and, even more importantly the import, from Microsoft Excel to add and update data," said John. "The project forecasting via spreadsheet provides a way for our Project Managers to use a tool they are comfortable with and still have all of the information reside in the COINS database."

"With several offices and more employees working from remote locations, I have been looking into the benefit of cloud computing and business continuity planning. Since COINS OA is web based software, it is allowing us to accomplish this by having our servers hosted at a data center," John stated.

COINS is looking forward to Air Masters Corporation's implementation and working with them to bring their software and infrastructure up to the latest technology.

About Air Masters Corporation

Air Masters Corporation was founded in 1966 by F. William "Bill" Rundquist and LeRay "Skip" Sullivan. Today the company employs more than 180 dedicated individuals providing HVACR, building automation and controls, piping, plumbing, fire protection, and sheet metal fabrication services to clients throughout Missouri and Illinois, with offices in St. Louis, Columbia and Rolla, Missouri.

Air Masters
MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR/ENGINEERS

Mobile Technician & CRM

COINS understands that when it comes to what its clients need for business intelligence (BI), reporting and analysis, one size does NOT fit all. That is why we COINS supports a wide variety of options that can be combined to suit a client's requirements – some by COINS, some from other industry leaders.

Please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit the COINS website if you'd like more information on any of these products.

COINS Report Writer is an entry-level reporting tool that enables users to produce powerful column-based reports across the COINS system. Report Writer can be used "out of the box" with over 1,200 default queries and is backed with COINS expert consulting and training.

COINS Business Intelligence is a suite of BI applications and technologies that are fully integrated with the COINS ERP. The COINS BI toolset includes Designer, Data Sets, Data Marts and OA Data Server, plus links to COINS Report Writer and Workflow. Optionally, third party reporting tools can be connected to the BI layer of the native COINS reporting solution.

One size fits all?
Hardly!

Expanding the options for analysis and business intelligence

COINS ETL with **COINS ODS** provides more options. COINS ETL (Extract-Transform-Load) is a COINS software product that provides configurable near-real time extraction and transformation of COINS data for loading into a dedicated reporting database. COINS ODS (Operational Data Store) is a target RDBMS (relational database management system) for receiving data generated by the ETL, and which can be used for operational and analytical reporting. Typically, the ODS would also be used as the platform for a data warehouse populated with selected COINS data. Currently, the ODS can be either Progress or Microsoft SQL Server. However, the design of the ETL means that there is no technical reason why other DB technologies cannot be supported in the future.

Tableau Desktop and **Tableau Server** enable business users to quickly create rich visualizations and dashboards with an intuitive drag-and-drop interface. It can be used directly with the COINS database or in conjunction with COINS ETL with ODS. Gartner and IDC rank Tableau (www.tableausoftware.com) as the fastest growing business intelligence software company in the world.

Comfort Systems USA companies go live on COINS OA

COINS welcomes Environmental Air Systems (EAS) and Quality Air Heating and Cooling to the growing family of COINS OA users.

Founded in 1953, Environment Air Systems Inc. (www.easinc.net) is a full service mechanical contractor and custom build HVAC equipment manufacturer. Based in Greensboro, North Carolina and operating throughout the southeastern United States, EAS focuses on industrial, commercial, and institutional construction. It went live on COINS OA in August 2013 with a financial, contract management, and personnel management system consisting of General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Job Status, Procurement, Inventory, Forecasting, Payroll, Human Resources and other modules.

Quality Air Heating and Cooling (www.qualityairinc.com) went live in October on a similar set of modules as EAS. Quality Air, established in 1968, is a full-featured HVAC mechanical contractor specializing in commercial and industrial HVAC systems design, construction, energy services and maintenance service. Its main office and large full service fabrication shop are located in Grand Rapids, Michigan with other offices in Kalamazoo and Lansing.

Both companies are part of Comfort Systems USA (www.comfortsystemsusa.com, NYSE: FIX), one of the premier mechanical systems installation and services providers in the USA. Comfort Systems is headquartered in Houston, Texas with 40 companies operating across 72 cities nationwide. It consistently ranks near the top of the ENR Top 600 Specialty Contractors.

ENS ENVIRONMENTAL AIR SYSTEMS

QUALITY AIR

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA
Quality People. Building Solutions.

Talk to COINS with SIG meetings and educational webinars

COINS Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings and Awareness Education and Input (AEI) Webinars are two great ways to get involved in the COINS product, learn more about existing functionality and new development, and provide input and feedback to COINS.

SIG Meetings

Special Interest Group meetings bring COINS and our clients together to review and discuss product development items. The meetings generally occur in person and involve active discussions.

COINS held a SIG meeting on July 9-10, 2013 for COINS OA users interested in the OA Project Management Module. Special thanks are due to CCC Group, Inc. which hosted the event at its offices in San Antonio, TX.   The two day session included detailed discussions on current and future project management functionality. Topic areas included Communication Workbench, Forecasting, Job Billing, Change Management, Scheduling, BIM integration, and Mobile.

In July, COINS held a SIG meeting to discuss detailed production tracking, with a special thanks to BMW Constructors for hosting the two-day event at its offices on July 24th and 25th.

Awareness Education and Input Program

The COINS Awareness Education and Input (AEI) program is a series of webinars on specific areas of functionality and process. The sessions are designed for people working in that particular topic area, whether they are interested in learning more about the topic or want a quick review.   The sessions are interactive, with questions and discussion encouraged.

The AEI webinars are held on Fridays from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm ET. The first ones were held in July and August. A number of interesting COINS OA topics have already been covered, including the following.

• **Subcontract Compliance Management**
• **Report Writer**
• **PR Timecard Input & Management**
• **Cost Plus Billing for Jobs**
• **Reconciling GL to Subsidiary Modules**

Session recordings are available for viewing in the Videos section of the COINS USA Support website. Log in with you user name and password: http://support.coins-global.com/usa/videos/

If you are interested in learning more about SIG meetings or AEI webinars, please contact COINS for the latest schedule.

COINS/SIG

insite

Buzz at CFMA 2013

Buzz surrounded the new COINS 20'x20' booth at the annual CFMA Conference & Exhibition, held June 23-25, 2013 in San Diego, California.
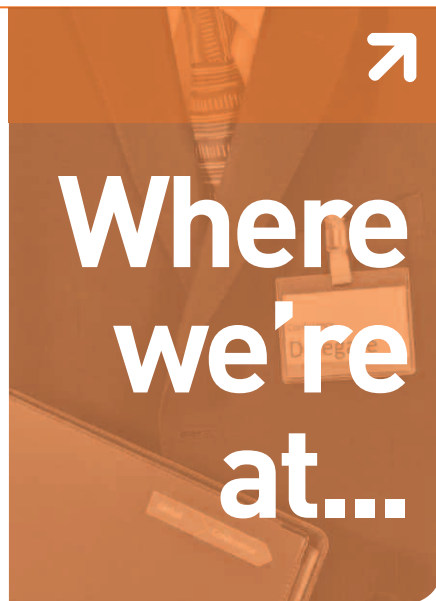
The new booth hosted a wide array of mobile devices including the iPad, Windows Surface, Galaxy Android tablet, and iPad Mini displaying the latest mobile software from COINS. Attendees were encouraged to experience the software and try the devices.

The conference ran off to a good start for COINS with the Fun Run & Walk Sunday to benefit Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. As the primary sponsor for the event, COINS was privileged to be able to see so many come out to promote their own health and provide support to Rady.

The next few days included additional time with attendees at the booth reviewing available software for mobile field entry for project managers and service technicians. COINS representatives also shared information about the charitable work done with the COINS Foundation. Many picked up a COINS stadium seat to use at the San Diego Padres baseball game and a rain poncho for any unexpected showers.

CFMA once again delivered an informative and educational conference for attendees. Meeting new people and connecting with friends and clients made this conference an invaluable experience for us. COINS was happy to support CFMA with an exhibit and sponsorship at this year's event, and looks forward to next year's event in Las Vegas.

Where we're at...

Look for COINS at the following Industry Events:

MSCA Annual Educational Conference
October 13-16, 2013
Boca Raton Resort & Club
Boca Raton, FL

AHR Expo
January 21-23, 2014
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
New York, NY

ENR FutureTech East
November 7, 2013
McGraw Hill Headquarters
New York, NY

CONEXPO-CON/AGG
March 4-8, 2014
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV

AICPA National Construction Industry Conference
December 5-6, 2013
Bellagio
Las Vegas, NV

MCAA Annual Conference
March 8-13, 2014
J.W. Mariott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa
Scottsdale, AZ

2013/14

THE NEWSLETTER OF
Construction Industry Solutions

COINS Sponsors

agcXML

COINS is excited to announce its Gold sponsorship of the agcXML initiative. Having worked on the issue of system interoperability for many years internationally, COINS recognizes this as both a US and global issue.

The experience COINS gained by building the largest e-trading hub in the UK – matching purchase orders, invoices and payments between a company's ERP and supplier using standardized data formats – is something COINS can bring to the initiative. The Business Application Software Developers Association (BASDA) is an association in the UK of which COINS has been a member since 1996. The BASDA Interoperability Charter was formed to solidify its members' commitment toward increasing their customers' ability to improve process efficiency and gain competitive advantage through interoperability. Sharing lessons learned and strategies used by BASDA is another way in which COINS can contribute to the agcXML initiative.

About agcXML initiative

The agcXML Project will result in a set of XML schemas for the transactional data that is now commonly exchanged in paper documents. Examples of such documents include, but are not limited to, owner/contractor agreements, schedules of values, requests for information (RFIs), requests for proposals (RFPs), architect/engineer supplemental instructions, change orders, change directives, submittals, applications for payment, and addenda.

agcXML GOLD SPONSOR

To ensure compatibility with related efforts, the agcXML Project is being executed as part of the buildingSMART Initiative of the International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI), within the framework of the IAI's agcXML Domain, and under the auspices of the International Alliance for Interoperability-North America, a Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS). The project is one of several AGC efforts in the building information modeling (BIM) and interoperability arenas, including the recently published Contractor's Guide to Building Information Modeling.

COINS Presents at AGC IT Forum

Over 200 attendees came out for the 2013 AGC IT Forum on August 14th & 15th in Chicago, IL. The annual gathering for the construction industry was a one-stop-shop for the latest on technology trends, cyber security, mobile technology and more.

As a Gold Sponsor of the agcXML, COINS was pleased to participate in one of the four "Rapid Fire Demos" featured during the conference. With only 15 minutes to showcase a new product or technology that benefits the industry, COINS R&D Solutions Architect Yan Llamas spoke about the benefits of "portalizing and mobilizing" software. He then switched things up a bit to speak about the charitable work and mission of the COINS Foundation, our company funded not-for-profit organization, as well as our social enterprise The Cookie Bar. A new branch of the Cookie Bar near Albany, NY is in the works.

Yan invited all who are interested in learning more to call our Albany office at 518-242-7200.

COINS OA 10.27 & 10.28

The most recent versions of COINS OA (10.27 and 10.28, to be released in November) include many new and streamlined features. Here are some highlights – please visit the Software Releases section of the COINS website Client Area detailed lists of enhancements and corrections.

- Ability to enter overtime and double time rates as an alternative to having them calculated from multipliers.
- Ability to track/report on equipment, small items, and other material and supplies provided to an employee by the company.
- New Prevailing Wage Expiration Report in Payroll to help users comply with insurance and other schemes with prevailing wage requirements.
- Ability to cancel (reverse) a subcontract certificate created in Job Contract Manager.
- Enhanced Payroll Union Detail Report with the ability to include individual pay calculations as well as union calculations.
- Configurable payroll exports enable retirement plan administrators to create electronic reports.
- Column set selection added to Purchase Order browse screens.
- Ability to adjust an application/certificate in Job Receivables by linking a new transaction to an existing open transaction. A new CS/ADJTRAN parameter enables this functionality.
- Ability to specify the bank on a Payroll check for EFT and check printing/posting.
- New address functionality to cover all address formats that COINS may use, providing more control over the entry of address data.
- Ability to record people responsible for equipment that is issued or dispatched.
- Ability to default the General Ledger account into a timecard based on the selected earnings category.
- New Exception Report in Payroll to include information when less than 8 or more than 10 regular hours are entered on a single day for any employee, or when an employee has zero hours for a normal workday.
- New Missing Trades for Jobs Report in Payroll to display any job marked as Certified and/or Prevailing Wage where the trade entered on the timecard is not on file in the rate tables.
- Enhanced Payroll Calculations to allow the credit associated with Payroll Allocations to use elements from the Costing Analysis to create the General Ledger credit account.
- Numerous improvements to cost-based billing, including the ability to allow an override of a rate/bill amount on cost transactions and to flag a cost code not to be included in cost transaction retrieval.
- Project Management module enhancements, including usability improvements, ability to monitor the procurement and delivery of key material items and new Material Tracker workbench.
- Ability to exclude certain entities from workgroup security with a new MK/EXCDENTITY parameter.
- Cost based and calculated Items in Job Contract Manager now displayed on Application (Certificate) Item Measures browsers, allowing entry of Materials Stored, Work Retention, and Material Retention.

Hints and Tips: Using COINS Favorites

In COINS, "favorites" are links you can use to open COINS functions quickly from any module home page. Users set up and organize their own personal favorites, so each user will see a different list on the home page. For example, a favorite could link to a frequently used function or open a specific record. You can set up favorites for several different modules to save on changing modules to get to them. When you click on a favorite, it will open in a new window.
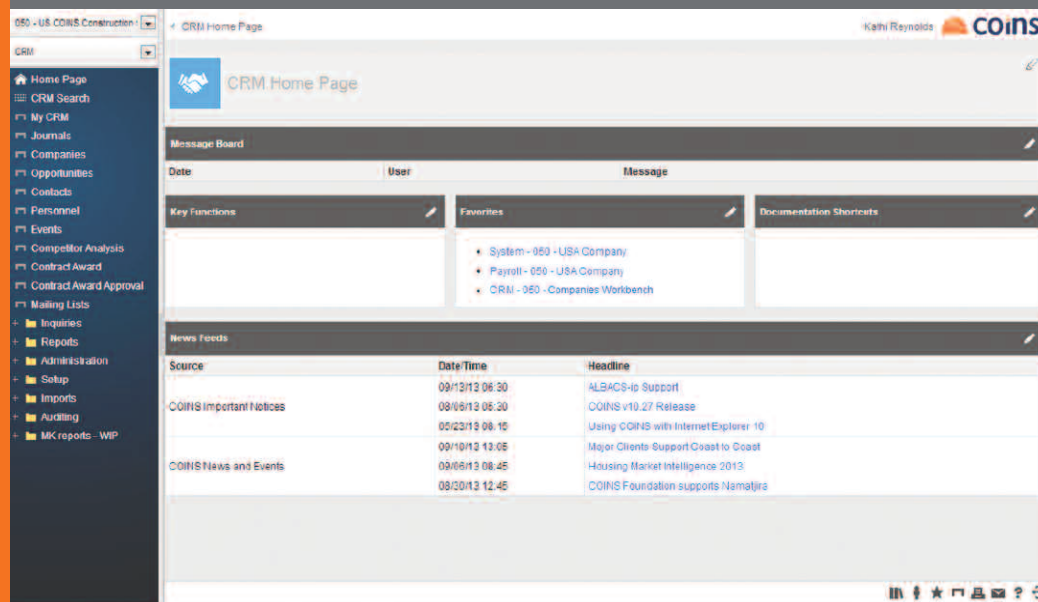
Adding a favorite

To add a favorite, display the screen that you want to link to – this can be a menu-level function or a screen at a deeper level, such as the detail screen of a single job. Click the **Add to Favorites** button ⭐ – one of the global shortcuts at the bottom of the screen. Enter a descriptive name for the link. When linking to a deeper level screen, tick the **Save Page Options** box to save the specific settings that were applied to the screen, like filter, sort order and tab selection. Click the **Forward** button ▶ to save the link.

Updating or deleting a favorite

Maintain your list of favorites using the Favorites tab, which is accessible via User Preferences (click the 👤 global shortcut) or by clicking the **Maintenance** ✏️ button in the Favorites section of the home page. You can open the record to change the description or specify that the shortcut should only appear on the home page for a specific module. To delete a favorite, tick the box next to the record and click the delete button ❌. Deletion is permanent and cannot be undone.

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In May, COINS staff presented in Oklahoma at AGC Chapter meetings in both Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The audiences included 29 attendees from general contractors and specialty contractors, with a good mix of national and regional firms. During these sessions, members learned about the BIM process (how to get started and going beyond the basic BIM). They were also given a preview of future trending areas in virtual construction.

Talking about BIM and Trending Technologies

Topics specifically discussed were:

• Determining your value proposition from which to deliver BIM.
• Understanding BIM industry technologies to better develop your road map.
• Discovering ways to further automate construction processes by using BIM.

Points of further discussion revolved around the value and challenges of adopting mobile technologies at the job site, practical uses of cloud technologies in construction collaboration, opinions on global BIM adoption, and projections of emerging 3D printing technology.
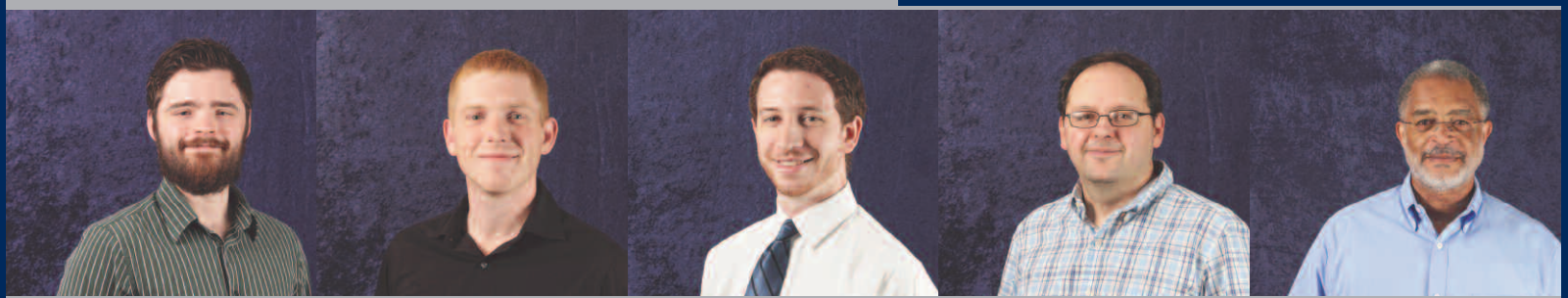
Debbie Martin, a presenter at the session and a BIM Account Manager at COINS, commented, "We discussed viewing BIM as a data asset to a company's operations and delivered customer value. Examples used to provoke a change in thinking included expanding your company's use and view of BIM from a trade coordination tool to a business tool serving business process through delivery, and from using BIM for quantities and estimation to integrating estimating, budgeting, and buyout. And how being the creators of this data asset is the perspective from which to determine your company's value proposition with BIM."

With expertise in Design, Financial, and Project Management software for the construction industry, COINS would welcome the opportunity to speak to your local or national construction trade organization regarding this subject. To learn more or to inquire about scheduling a session, please email info.us@coins-global.com or call the Dallas office at 972-910-9076.

New faces at COINS USA

| Rob Fleming | Will Foss | Jon Leibowitz | Vinny Montalbano | Ed Hill |

In March, the Client Support Department added much needed "bench strength" with three new Client Support Analysts. All are recent college graduates, and their roles are to advise clients with hands-on technical troubleshooting and support across a variety of platforms.

• **Rob Fleming** holds a BA in Business & Technology Management and has worked in customer service roles in both the retail and financial sectors.
• **Will Foss**, whose BA degree is in Economics, has worked in a Resource Specialist role providing technical research and support to both individuals and governmental agencies.
• **Jon Leibowitz** most recently worked in a Technical Support role that included various IT duties, including training with software applications; he has a BS degree in Business Administration.

In May, COINS welcomed **Vinny Montalbano** to the COINS team in the role of Network and Systems Analyst. Vinny brings a much needed skill set to help the Tech Department better respond to infrastructure calls and system administration support for our clients. He previously worked as a Linux Application Support Engineer, providing application support for Linux and Windows platforms.

This past July, **Ed Hill** became a member of our Delivery Department. As a Consultant, Ed offers more than 20 years of service management experience to our clients. Ed previously worked in the field as Service Operations Manager with a HVAC contractor and has extensive service industry and construction ERP software knowledge.

Greater efficiency with COINS

AVANT homes

Avant Homes, formerly the Gladedale Group, is a major force in the UK property industry in both the residential and commercial sector.

During 2004 and 2007, the company grew through acquisition to such a stage that they had 14 different IT systems in operation. With seven regional offices and a head office function to control, Avant recognized the need to implement a business system that would provide consistency of information, standardization and better access to timely reporting. Its host of different systems and processes made it impossible for Avant to get an overall picture of business performance. Some streamlining had to take place.

COINS, one of Avant's legacy IT systems, was implemented into the whole business because it is comprehensive, scalable and easily extended to support growth and business change. The other legacy IT solutions were migrated into COINS in a phased manner. COINS designed, tested, fine-tuned and deployed software on the company's network.

Avant's Group IT Director, Carole Asker comments, "It is a huge advantage to have all our businesses operating in the same way as it greatly improves visibility and accountability. We are able to respond quickly and make better-informed decisions and forecasts far more quickly than we could before."

Phase One of the implementation is complete, covering Finance, Commercials (including Procurement and VAP), House Sales and Payroll. Phase Two is well under way. For Phase Three, Avant Homes is considering implementing the HR module and is piloting COINS *m*GRN*, a mobile goods received note solution that connects directly with the COINS Procurement module.

*mGRN is a mobile app for IOS, Windows 8 and Android. It is currently available to COINS clients in the UK.

Pasha Construction to employ COINS ERP

COINS is pleased to welcome PASHA Construction, one of the largest established companies in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Launched in November 2006, PASHA Construction has enjoyed phenomenal growth over the past 6 years, to become a full service development and construction company with a diverse portfolio of projects across retail, residential, office centers, restaurants, hotels and large mixed use schemes. PASHA Construction is at the heart of some of the most prestigious projects in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, which was the host city for the Eurovision Song Contest 2012 Grand Final and will be the host city for the inaugural European Olympics in 2015.

To keep pace with the rapid growth of the company, PASHA Construction is undergoing a finance-led business transformation initiative.

Shabbir Fareed, Finance Director of PASHA Construction, states: "Our vision is to bring all of our processes close to best-in-class standard, thereby enhancing transactional efficiency; strengthening our control environment; and delivering more timely and flexible management reporting. We believe that COINS will be a key enabler in this extensive business transformation initiative. We have decided to stay close to COINS Firstbase processes, as we believe that this reflects our vision of the best-in-class benchmark for the construction industry. We intend to fully utilize COINS workflow and mobile-working capabilities to deliver the productivity gains that we are seeking."

Shabbir continues: "COINS Business Intelligence capabilities will provide timely and potentially real-time reporting to all of our decision-makers."

In a project scheduled across several phases, PASHA Construction will implement the full range of systems and modules provided by the COINS platform. The initial phases will introduce robust finance, procurement and basic cost-value-reconciliation systems, followed by human resources, payroll, equipment management and full project commercial management.

Commenting on the announcement, Nigel Cope, COINS CEO Emerging Markets said: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome PASHA Construction to the growing COINS construction and services global community. We are looking forward to a long and mutually rewarding relationship, in which we have plenty of opportunity to deliver value to PASHA Construction's stakeholders."

HARVARD
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Larry Returns to Harvard

After speaking at a number of top business schools in the United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom last winter, COINS Chairman Larry Sullivan returns to the States to continue his Entrepreneurship as a Force for Good series with a second visit to Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Larry spent the day on Harvard's SEAS campus with budding entrepreneurs, students and researchers. During his visit, Larry spoke on his career path and entrepreneurial journey, from selling ice-cream as a student in Chicago to founding six niche market software houses, and the social responsibility that comes with any form of privilege. By delivering these talks Larry aims to influence the next generation of business leaders to establish social enterprises, and in-turn, inspire future generations to think differently about poverty, disability and injustice.

The COINS Foundation is growing and evolving to more sustainably support our charitable efforts. The funds raised by team building events like the COINS 3 Peaks Challenge provide valuable one time, event-related donations. However, the COINS Foundation has realized that entrepreneurial thinking could help provide the answer for more sustainable funding.

COINS Foundation: growing for the future

COINS Chairman Larry Sullivan talks about the journey that the COINS Foundation has taken in a recent video on the COINS Foundation website. In the video, he explains how the COINS Foundation was established to galvanize the charitable activities of his companies: COINS, OASIS and Total Objects. Stepping Stones School for children with mild to moderate learning disabilities followed.

Larry has taken his message of entrepreneurial social enterprise to some of the foremost business schools in the US, UK and Middle East in the hope of inspiring business majors to think about establishing social enterprise as a force for good. He uses the Cookie Bar as an illustration – a social enterprise where students of Stepping Stones School can gain work experience and hands-on business and citizenship studies while helping to fund the school.

Sustainability and social enterprise are elements of many of the projects that the COINS Foundation supports, such as Habitat for Humanity's micro finance program in Africa: microloans enable incremental building and improve quality of life in a sustainable way.

The COINS Foundation also partners with PEAS (Promoting Equality in African Schools) to build sustainable schools in Uganda and Zambia. The schools generate enough income from school farms, boarding fees and regional support to thrive without continuing subsidies from foreign charities.

Closer to home, the COINS Foundation sponsored the installation of solar panels at Bethesda House – the energy savings and lower electric bills have freed its funds for more direct benefit to the community.

The goal of the COINS Foundation is to influence the way people think about poverty, disability and injustice, with a special emphasis on young people. For more information about the COINS Foundation, visit www.coinsfoundation.org.

insite

The COINS Foundation funded solar panel installation for Bethesda House of Schenectady, NY.

Renewable Energy for Bethesda

The COINS Foundation presented Bethesda House – an interfaith ministry to the homeless, disabled and economically disadvantaged of Schenectady County – with a check for $10,000 on July 12, 2013. Seven thousand dollars of these funds are being used to install solar panels on the roof of Bethesda's main location, which houses administrative offices, 16 permanent apartments for the chronically homeless, a day shelter, food pantry, daily dining facilities for meals, and a number of services (including computer access, showers, and phones for those in need).

The addition of these solar panels will help minimize the cost of energy for Bethesda, allowing them to use the savings elsewhere in the organization. These panels were a donation and the funds from the COINS Foundation help to round out the project, thus making it fully funded.

The remaining funds are being used for replacement windows in the Lighthouse facility, which contains 3 permanent apartments, as well as temporary housing for veterans (as part of a program helping them to get re-established).

Bethesda House is an interfaith ministry to the homeless, disabled and economically disadvantaged citizens of Schenectady County, NY. Its mission is to build a just, hospitable and inclusive community one person at a time by affirming the dignity and addressing the needs of each guest entering this "House of Mercy."

For more information on Bethesda House of Schenectady please visit bethesdahouseschenectady.org.

The downside of the phenomenal growth in the use of business cell phones, smart phones, iPads and other mobile devices is the headache of securely disposing of outdated or inoperable devices.

COINS teams up with IT-Recycle to promote responsible electronics recycling

Too many unwanted cell phones end up in our landfills unnecessarily. To do something about it, COINS has teamed up with IT-Recycle to promote the recycling of IT products while raising funds for the COINS Foundation.

IT-Recycle is an international cell phone recycling company committed to addressing the responsible recycling needs of the business community by providing a convenient and lucrative way to recycle IT products such as cell phones, smart phones, iPads, etc. while also providing secure data erasure. Participating companies can either put the proceeds back into their own business or donate them to the charity of their choice.

The process is simple and handled by an IT-Recycle account manager from initial contact through collection, evaluation, pricing, data erasure and payment/donation. Any non-working, non-reparable phones are recycled pursuant to DTSC standards and IT-Recyle's zero waste to landfill policy.

COINS is working with IT-Recycle to help promote responsible IT product recycling. If you are interested in seeing how IT-Recycle might benefit your company or preferred charity and for more information on how it works, please visit www.it-recycle.com.

About IT-Recycle

The IT-Recycle team has had over 20 years of tried and tested success in Europe and is responsible for recycling over 4 million handsets generating revenues of over $60m for companies and donating over $6m of the proceeds to charities. Now, under local management, IT-Recycle has started a new business in California.