



Checking In

Maryland company benefits from the power its job site management solution provides



DXI Construction began as a small paving company in northeastern Maryland but has grown to employ more than 400 people and now covers the entire Mid-Atlantic region. That growth has also seen the company become one of the region's top specialists in earthmoving, site-prep, utility work, and more, according to Lyle Ballou, DXI's GPS manager.

Company

DXI Construction, Churchville, Maryland

Project

Overview of Sitelink3D role in construction operations, Northeast Maryland

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"While the growth in workforce was exponential for the first four decades, our employee numbers have peaked at that 400 level, despite our work continuing to increase," he said. "That's largely because of the technology we employ and the productivity it brings. Our embrace of machine control on our heavy equipment has allowed us to do more with less; that's been huge as the workload has grown."

In a yin/yang perspective, if GPS and Topcon 3D machine control are the active principles at work for DXI Construction, (the yang), then surely

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Sitelink3D, the site management solution overseeing and bringing order to their fleet, would be its complementary yin. According to Ballou, the company has been utilizing — and benefiting from — Sitelink3D for more than a decade now.

“We started out small, with just a few machines using the solution and by 2018, had about nine units connected,” he said. “Today we have 32 machines — excavators, dozers and a motor grader — running Sitelink3D with more on the way. Being as large as we are, we regularly have a few dozen jobs going on, most of which are utilizing GPS machines. In addition, we are constantly moving foremen between jobs. Without Sitelink, ensuring that each of those machines or foremen has the latest job file available would be a nightmare. Now, I can easily remote in, make sure the current file is in use, and, if not, update it.”

The web-based solution allows Ballou to see a machine, or a group of machines, and monitor progress, provide remote support assistance, enable file transfers and message operators at any job site. That ability to transfer and update files is key at a time when the workforce shortage is extending well past simply the laborers.



“Understaffed engineering firms are getting the data out slower than they have in the past,” he said. “So we sometimes get the jobs before plans are actually approved, only to be followed by a stream of revisions. Having a way to quickly get those changes out and installed in every machine helps us avoid the risk of a costly error or re-do.”

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Before Sitelink3D became a part of their workflow, Ballou had to make certain he had a USB drive handy for each job and get it to each respective operator. While effective, it was inefficient, and because some drives could still contain older versions, there was the risk of the operator installing an outdated file.

“Operators don’t ask if it’s the latest version, they just pop it in and go,” said Ballou. “Then, unfortunately, I get a phone call that ‘something’s not right.’ We’ve eliminated that issue entirely. We also use the solution to deal with connectivity issues — if an operator is having trouble getting or keeping signal, I can remote into the machine, diagnose it remotely and get them back online.”

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“We already have some very exciting projects either ongoing or starting soon,” he added. “Keeping a handle on all of that activity would be next to impossible without a tool like Sitelink3D to bring it all together. It’s really helped shape what we can do and who we are as a company.”



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