

Outsourcing Civil Engineering – no longer just making 3D models ‘n drawings

Introduction: the change is now

Until a decade ago, civil engineering outsourcing was still at its nascent stage. The work that was outsourced predominantly involved creating 2D and 3D models and drawings. The design element; core every engineering activity was something that was not outsourced owing to concerns over IP, lack of domain knowledge, and more importantly lack of specialized talent. Effective coordination between collaborating parties was the key to the success of such engagements. However, over time this model was found to be extremely time consuming and became a concern.

As time progressed, companies started looking for outsourcing partners who could offer solutions and increased ownership, and not just the day-today monitoring and reviewing of the project. Since modelling and detailing contributed to only a small portion of the bigger picture, companies realized the need to outsource bigger chunk of work. The customers started seeing the need to realise the “value addition” from the engagement to bring competitive products to the market, with less overall spending. Today’s businesses; therefore, are driven by cost reduction and product lifecycle pressures, and are increasingly focused on developing effective outsourcing strategies that drive significant improvement in global civil engineering space.

The new journey: adopting the change

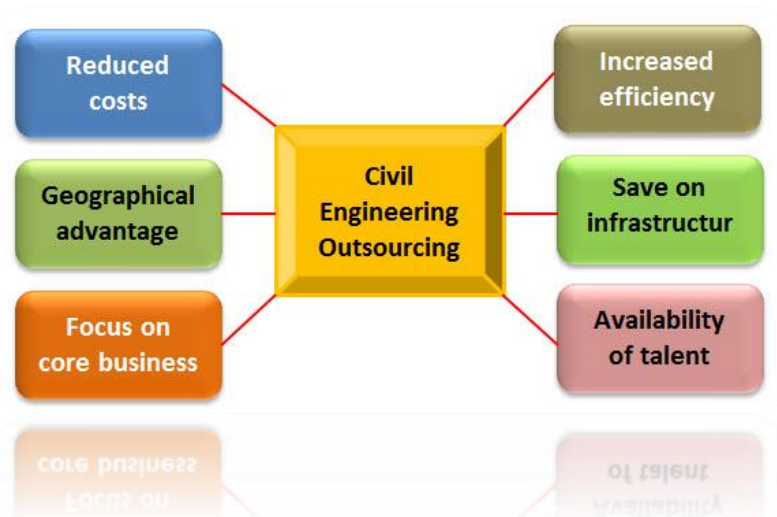
The Civil Engineering work space, to meet this new challenge, has to observe the evolving change in the needs of their customer and should align their internal strategies. They need to build a series of new competencies to support their customer needs.. The journey will never stop with just one successful product prototype, or a project, they need to increase the focus and developed a whole range of peripheral competencies around the whole spectrum of civil engineering. Plant solutions, Integrated Asset Management, Remote Monitoring and Diagnostics and Geospatial solutions need to be worked upon; solutions that complement the entire development life cycle!

The Advantage: outsourcing civil engineering

As is the case with every other domain; outsourcing civil engineering to India, the biggest advantage is **cost savings**. However, besides cost effectiveness, there are few other relevant advantages as well.

Improved customer satisfaction with on-time deliveries supported by and high quality services is the key to impress your customers. This will also earn you customer loyalty. Organizations that adopt the “do it all” strategy incur much higher research, development, marketing, and distribution costs. All this cost, in turn, is passed to the customers.

Third-party infrastructure cost and economies of scale can **reduce your costs**, giving you a key competitive advantage.



When certain functions are outsourced, companies also distribute or **do away with the risks** involved in operating a particular function. For example, if the salary management operational eats your time and money, this provider of outsourced payroll services gives you the freedom to focus your concentration on other core activities of the business. The time zone difference between Asian countries and the West, **you can get your work done while your business is closed** in the evening.

Outsourcing **converts fixed costs and variable costs**, **releases capital** for investment elsewhere in your business, allowing you to avoid large expenditures in the early stages of your business in stages. Outsourcing can also **make your company more attractive to investors**.