Acumatica Introduces AI-Driven Construction Capabilities in 2026 R1 Update

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Acumatica has unveiled new Construction Edition capabilities as part of its 2026 R1 product update, targeting improved project control, forecasting, and financial visibility across the construction lifecycle.

The release comes as contractors face mounting pressure from tighter margins, volatile material costs, labour shortages, and increasing compliance demands. In response, Acumatica is embedding AI-driven intelligence directly into day-to-day project workflows, aiming to shift decision-making earlier in the delivery cycle.

From a project management perspective, the update reflects a broader industry move towards real-time control and predictive oversight, rather than retrospective reporting.

"Construction firms can't afford surprises late in a project," said Joel Hoffman, director of product management, CRE, at Acumatica. "With 2026 R1, we're delivering embedded intelligence that helps contractors spot risk sooner, maintain tighter cost control, and make smarter decisions with confidence."

Strengthening control across the project lifecycle

At the core of the update is a focus on full lifecycle project management, linking financial performance more closely to delivery progress.

New capabilities include automated revenue percentage calculations to improve billing accuracy, alongside enhanced cost projections based on quantities and unit rates. These tools are designed to help

project teams identify potential overruns before they impact margins, a critical requirement in an environment where cost certainty is increasingly difficult to maintain.

Enhanced financial and payroll reporting also improves alignment between project data and financial outcomes. New auditing features provide visibility into unprocessed transactions, helping ensure that cost tracking, billing, and payroll reflect real-time project performance.

Improving data visibility and collaboration

The update also introduces a modernised document management system, centralising project information within a single cloud-based environment. Automated tagging and improved access controls aim to reduce fragmentation between field and office teams, while strengthening audit trails across the project lifecycle.

This aligns with a persistent industry challenge: fragmented data remains one of the biggest barriers to effective project delivery.

AI moves from insight to intervention

A key addition is AI-powered anomaly detection, designed to identify unusual cost patterns, transactions, or inconsistencies before they escalate into delivery risks. By surfacing these issues earlier, the platform supports faster, more informed intervention.

Acumatica is also providing early access to its AI Assistant, signalling a shift towards more intuitive interaction with project data and insights.

For contractors, the implication is clear. Project management systems are evolving from passive reporting tools into active decision-support platforms that can influence outcomes in real time.

Andrew Pistorius, chief financial officer at Mid-States Companies, said:
"Before moving to Acumatica, we struggled with disconnected systems and limited visibility into real-time job costs. The new Construction Edition capabilities reflect where the industry is heading. We're excited to begin leveraging the enhanced financial insights and AI-driven features once available, as they have the potential to help teams like ours identify risks earlier and make more informed decisions."

A shift towards predictive project delivery

The 2026 R1 release builds on Acumatica's wider push into AI-enabled workflows, extending capabilities already introduced in supply chain management into construction.

The direction is consistent with a wider shift across the sector. As projects grow more complex, success increasingly depends on the ability to predict performance, not just report on it.

For project professionals, the message is straightforward: visibility is no longer enough; the competitive advantage lies in acting on it early.