



Mid-Size EPC Reduces Cost Estimating Time Up to 90% to Meet Tighter Schedules and Budgets



"By using Aspen Capital Cost Estimator, S&B has saved considerable costs in the estimation function, while at the same time freeing up scarce estimator resources to perform value-added analysis instead of project setup and manual data development."

- Rick Richison, Senior Project Estimator, S&B



As one of the foremost privately held EPCs, S&B Engineers and Constructors Ltd., based in Houston, TX, enjoys a strong record of quality work and excellence in project performance.

In recent years, S&B has been challenged by shrinking client budgets and tighter project schedules. Clients demand more for less, including more detailed digital handover of data to accompany traditional project deliverables.

To remain competitive, S&B looked beyond the traditional approach of producing project estimates to find a solution that was faster and more tailored to the process industries. Aspen Capital Cost Estimator (formerly Aspen Kbase)—part of the aspenONE suite of Process Engineering applications—not only saves significant time, but also allows S&B to dedicate more resources to analysis and evaluation, instead of project setup and information input.

**S&B's use of aspenONE®
best-in-class estimating also frees up resources
to provide value-add analysis to clients.**

CUSTOMER PROFILE - S&B Engineers & Constructors - *Engineering & Construction*

CHALLENGE

Reduce estimate preparation time and costs.

SOLUTION

Aspen Capital Cost Estimator applied on most process industry capital projects.

BENEFITS

- Lowers man-hours for estimate production—a measured reduction of 5:1 estimating hours for FEL1 and FEL2 estimates, and 2.5:1 for FEL3 estimates
- Reduces estimate preparation time, increasing time available for analysis and other deliverables
- Maintains best-in-class levels of accuracy and risk

CASE STUDY

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ACHIEVING CONTROLLED RISK ESTIMATES

S&B initially turned to the Aspen Capital Cost Estimator solution to reduce risk to both S&B and its clients. The software provides early estimates with key supporting details to assist in defining potential cost, schedule, and resource risks, helping S&B focus on the highest cost components of the project.

Despite operating with constrained estimating resources, S&B found the system easy to adopt and configure to its engineering standards. In addition, with its enhanced and intuitive functionality, the solution easily scales to meet the needs of a smaller team dedicated to the estimating function.

HIGH-QUALITY ESTIMATES WITH GREATLY REDUCED COSTS

S&B invested the time and effort to rigorously calibrate Aspen Capital Cost Estimator to incorporate its engineering practices and historical

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trends. S&B also developed templates for estimating repetitively specified processes.

After this calibration, S&B has measured a 5:1 reduction in estimating hours required to prepare FEL1 and FEL2 estimates, with approximately half that savings going toward FEL3 estimates. This has enabled estimators to dedicate additional time to value-added analysis of project estimates, what-if studies, and other client deliverables. S&B also takes advantage of the solution's interface capabilities, enabling export of estimate details and resource loading into a project scheduling system.

Overall, the use of the aspenONE solution has helped S&B react more quickly to volatile competitive and economic conditions, and become more proactive in using the estimating function as a valuable component in the marketing of its project services.

LOOKING AHEAD

The success of Aspen Capital Cost Estimator at S&B has led to a best-in-class estimating function. Next steps in the use of the system will include ongoing calibration and use of the system for analysis of historical and project costs, while also focusing on reporting and further development of templates to be used for repeat designs of unit operations.

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AspenTech is a leading supplier of software that optimizes process manufacturing—for energy, chemicals, engineering and construction, and other industries that manufacture and produce products from a chemical process. With integrated aspenONE® solutions, process manufacturers can implement best practices for optimizing their engineering, manufacturing, and supply chain operations. As a result, AspenTech customers are better able to increase capacity, improve margins, reduce costs, and become more energy efficient. To see how the world's leading process manufacturers rely on AspenTech to achieve their operational excellence goals, visit www.aspentech.com.

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