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Platned CIO checklist for selecting a new ERP solution that delivers ROI

Construction and engineering leaders face pressure to overcome long-standing challenges while also finding new opportunities.

IFS's global study of 825 industry leaders found that over half are seeking a new ERP, with almost two-thirds expecting to select one within the next 1–2 years. At Platned, we see the same trend: firms know they must modernise to stay competitive.

Every project is complex, but one constant is change. To succeed, organisations must build agility, adapt quickly to market disruption, protect their financial position, and improve digital maturity. The CIO role has become central - not only in IT but in driving profitability, resilience, and growth.

This checklist provides practical guidance for ensuring your ERP journey with Platned delivers measurable business value and a strong return on investment.

Define business objectives and long-term vision

Clarify your long-term goals. Do you want to expand into recurring service revenues, enter new regions, or take on joint ventures that enable larger projects?

Your five or ten-year vision will determine core ERP requirements such as:

- Multi-language and multi-currency support.
- Modular components and open APIs to add or remove functionality.
- The ability to integrate easily with other systems for collaboration with subcontractors and partners.

Map the desired future functional state and capabilities

Design the ERP to enable best practice across the organisation. This requires input from leaders in finance, operations, sales, customer service, risk, HR, and beyond.

Key capabilities to prioritise include:'

- **Integrated project financial control** – beyond accounting, ensure full financial management of projects.
- **Standardisation** – adopt repeatable, best-practice workflows across projects and regions.
- **Sustainability** – embed environmental tracking and reporting into digital strategies.
- **Industrial AI and automation** – leverage AI to improve efficiency, decision-making, and business value.
- **Configurable industry use cases** – use prebuilt workflows tailored to construction and engineering, with flexibility to adapt.

Build a compelling business case

A strong financial case is critical. Avoid pitfalls such as holding on to fragmented systems, failing to centralise data, or lacking a data-driven culture. A simplified technology landscape and unified data enable measurable ROI.

Lead change management and adoption

Technology success depends on people. As CIO, you must ensure every department understands the value of the ERP. Identify champions who will support the rollout and address resistance early.

- Adoption succeeds when you:
- Roll out in phases, using smaller groups for user acceptance testing.
- Involve employees in shaping and testing the solution.
- Provide role-specific dashboards and intuitive mobile tools.
- Deliver continuous training for employees and subcontractors.

IFS Cloud supports this with features such as **mobile apps designed like consumer tools** and **Lobbies that highlight only the functions each role needs**, helping users adopt the system quickly and effectively.

Evaluate vendors and ensure flexibility

- When assessing ERP vendors, consider: Analyst recommendations (IDC, Gartner, Forrester, etc.).
- Vendor market share, financial stability, and leadership vision.
- Customer reviews, case studies, and industry recognition.
- Investment in research and development, and a clear product roadmap.

Your ERP must also integrate seamlessly with existing systems and adapt to new technologies like BIM, drones, robotics, AI, laser scanning, modular construction, and 3D printing.

Platned works with **IFS Cloud™**, built on an open, composable architecture:

- Integrates readily with other systems via open APIs and middleware.
- Allows you to implement as much or as little functionality as required at any time.
- Supports rapid creation of project-specific virtual instances for joint ventures, fully configurable, cost-effective, and able to integrate with third-party systems.

Monitor ROI and measure value

Independent IDC research confirms the business value of IFS Cloud:

414%
ROI over three years

11-month
payback period

$2.5M
average annual staff efficiency gains

27%
reduction in time per budget cyclegains

18%
faster period-end closegains

ROI is also seen in improvements to:

- Project management and collaboration.
- Budget control and margin protection.
- Health, safety, and quality.
- Supply chain, procurement, and inventory management.
- Risk management and compliance automation.
- Resource optimisation across labour, materials, subcontractors, and tools.

Embed continuous improvement

Digital transformation is not a one-time milestone. To succeed long term, CIOs must embed innovation and improvement into organisational culture. This drives benefits such as profitability, efficiency, client retention, and staff engagement.
ERP vendors should act as long-term partners, continually developing their solutions to break new barriers in technology and process optimisation

Ready to start your journey?

If you are looking for an ERP solution that delivers measurable ROI and supports continuous growth, Platned and IFS are ready to help.

Vision: lead through industrial AI, purpose, and impact - enabling customers to manage mission-critical assets, workflows, people, and services responsibly.

Value: IFS Cloud customers see results at every step, with success stories that showcase real impact and strengthen credibility.

People: we foster a culture of agility, collaboration, trust, and grit - values that ensure meaningful contributions and outcomes for customers.

Proven expertise: IFS is routinely recognised by industry experts as a leading provider of enterprise software designed in collaboration with customers.

Future: driving excellence in business, customer value, and sustainability, with a focus on innovation and growth that benefits customers and society.

Innovation through industrial AI: IFS.ai combines simulation, optimisation, and anomaly detection within IFS Cloud to boost productivity, enhance decision-making, and unify data insights across the enterprise.

About Platned

Platned is an IFS Gold Services Partner delivering ERP, EAM, and service management solutions for construction, engineering, manufacturing, energy, utilities, and service-focused organisations. We help companies maximise uptime, improve project delivery, and reduce costs with IFS Cloud™ and complementary technologies.

Our expertise spans implementation, integration, training, support, and continuous improvement. With teams across the UK, US, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East, we work side-by-side with customers to unlock lasting value from their IFS investment.

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