

Replacing legacy ERP in construction and engineering



A CIO's guide to evaluating and implementing a digital ERP backbone

The construction and engineering industry has often been slower than others to embrace modern software and digital tools. Rising complexity across skills, profitability, supply chains, sustainability, and diversification means that slow adoption and weak integration between systems and core processes have become major roadblocks to success.

This whitepaper examines the increasingly strategic role CIOs must play. It explores how to open new revenue streams, increase agility and resilience, and establish strong project financial control. By modernising processes and replacing legacy technology, you strengthen financial performance and make your organisation more attractive to clients, partners, and investors.

With a clear strategic vision and the right ERP vendor as your business partner, you can secure a lasting competitive advantage. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, Platned helps you implement, integrate, and optimise **IFS Cloud™**, so your technology investment delivers measurable value and long-term success.



Accelerating digital transformation: a sector imperative in an evolving market

Over the next two to three years, the industry will be reshaped by the adoption of digital ERP platforms and rapid advances in Industrial AI.

Digital maturity is accelerating rapidly

Companies are adopting digital solutions to tackle fragmentation. In a 2024 global survey, **63%** said they plan to adopt a new ERP platform within the next one to two years.

Business diversification is driving more sustainable growth

32% ranked diversification as a near-term priority. Firms are moving from project-only income to more stable, repeatable revenue streams, including facilities services, maintenance management, modular and prefabricated construction, and rental models. To enable this flexibility, organisations need agility at scale supported by an ERP with built-in construction and engineering use cases.

Standardisation is boosting efficiency and control

By 2025, **80%** of firms are expected to prioritise standardisation of processes, data structures, and materials. Standardised workflows and templates, such as those in industrialised construction, drive consistency, performance, and profitability, especially across multiple regions.

Sustainability is shaping projects and construction methods

By the end of 2025, more than **60%** of organisations will embed sustainability into digital strategies. Modern cloud ERP helps track and report metrics such as carbon footprint, energy efficiency, and waste reduction in real time.

Industrial AI adoption is at the forefront

55% of construction and engineering companies plan to introduce AI into their operations in 2025 and beyond. AI, machine learning, and digital asset lifecycle management top the technology agenda.

The barriers to progress

Despite strong intent, many organisations still face outdated IT infrastructure, limited digital skills, and cultural resistance to change. These factors constrain growth, scalability, and competitiveness. The question becomes how leaders can convert ambition into innovation.

At **Platned**, we address these barriers in practice. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, we deploy and support **IFS Cloud™** to modernise legacy estates, unify data and processes, and unlock efficiency, sustainability, and profitability at scale.



63%

plan to adopt a new ERP platform within the next one to two years.

Standardisation, sustainability, and AI adoption in construction and engineering

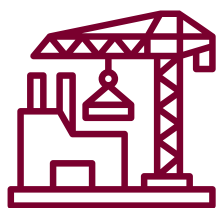
By 2025, **80%** of firms are expected to prioritise the standardisation of processes, data structures, and materials. Adopting consistent workflows and templates, such as those used in industrialised construction, drives efficiency, strengthens performance, and improves profitability across complex and geographically diverse organisations.

Sustainability is shaping projects and construction methods

By the end of 2025, more than **60%** of organisations will embed sustainability into their digital transformation strategies. Cloud-based ERP platforms make it possible to track and report on carbon footprints, energy efficiency, and waste reduction in real time, ensuring that sustainability goals are both visible and measurable.

Industrial AI adoption is at the forefront of digital transformation

55% of construction and engineering firms plan to introduce AI into their operations in 2025 and beyond. The technologies most in demand include AI, machine learning, and digital asset lifecycle management. These innovations promise to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and create long-term value.



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The construction and engineering CIO: the critical catalyst for change

Despite strong intent across the industry, outdated IT infrastructure, a shortage of digital skills, and cultural resistance to change continue to hold businesses back. These barriers reduce competitiveness and scalability.

This is why the role of the CIO has become more critical than ever. Historically focused on IT infrastructure and operational efficiency, CIOs

are now central to digital transformation. The emergence of titles such as Chief Digital Officer and Chief Transformation Officer highlights how expectations have evolved.

CIOs today are expected to:

- Align IT strategies with business goals and long-term objectives
- Champion innovation, identifying technologies that create measurable value
- Collaborate with other executives to drive cultural and organisational change
- Ensure seamless integration of new technologies across operations
- Lead the adoption of data-driven decision making, analytics, and business intelligence

A photograph of three construction professionals—two men and one woman—wearing hard hats and safety vests, standing on a construction site and reviewing a set of blueprints. The background shows a large building under construction with scaffolding and a clear sky.

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IFS Cloud provides a seamless, unified system. Following our merger, both companies were already using IFS. The flexibility of IFS Cloud allows us to tailor it to our needs, driving business culture and facilitating organisational change.”

IFS Cloud, Engineering Professional Services Customer

Platned's role as a long-term partner

At **Platned**, we work alongside CIOs to make this shift successful. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, we combine technology with delivery expertise. We ensure that IFS Cloud is implemented in a way that fits the business, aligns with strategy, and prepares teams to adopt change with confidence.

For CIOs, this means more than a software rollout. It means having a partner who can integrate systems, support cultural transformation, and ensure that digital adoption delivers measurable ROI and long-term value.

The construction and engineering CIO: the critical catalyst for change

Historically, CIOs focused on IT infrastructure and operational efficiency. Today, they must go much further. The CIO is now a strategic leader, responsible for aligning IT initiatives with broader business goals and ensuring that digital transformation delivers measurable outcomes.

Modern CIOs are expected to:

- Promote innovation by identifying technologies that generate value
- Work across departments and with executives to embed cultural and organisational change
- Ensure seamless integration of digital tools across the enterprise
- Drive data-led decision making through analytics and business intelligence





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IFS supports all areas of our business, providing complete transparency across all entities and top consolidation. Using the same processes everywhere saves resources and internal effort. As a modern solution, we stay up to date with the latest releases and functionalities like AI, enhancing efficiency and information availability for all users.”

IFS Cloud, ERP Customer

At **Platned**, we see CIOs playing this expanded role every day. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, we help CIOs make the shift from technology custodian to business catalyst, guiding organisations to achieve real transformation with **IFS Cloud™**.

Why a digital construction ERP solution?

For most organisations, the main reason for implementing a digital ERP strategy is to achieve stronger control. Control is the basis of business success, because with control comes improved performance and resilience.

At an **operational level**, ERP strengthens project performance through standardised, repeatable processes that improve:

- **Time:** Integrated planning and change management support on-time delivery.
- **Cost:** Effective control of labour, materials, subcontractors, and equipment ensures projects remain within budget.
- **Quality:** Robust QHSE practices and risk management help maintain standards and safe operations.

At a **strategic level**, ERP enables organisations to build lasting competitiveness:

- **Compliance:** Ensure governance and audit requirements are met while driving ESG and sustainability initiatives.
- **Technology:** Seamlessly integrate BIM, AI, and other innovations while ensuring security and data protection.
- **Business transformation:** Support diversification, acquisitions, and industrialised construction, enabling expansion into new markets and increasing business value.

Platned's role in building control

At **Platned**, we help CIOs and leadership teams unlock these benefits. By implementing and supporting **IFS Cloud™**, we ensure ERP is not just software but a foundation for greater control, improved profitability, and sustainable growth. With Platned as your partner, digital transformation becomes a practical, measurable success story.



How do you ensure the ROI of digital transformation?

One of the most important responsibilities for CIOs is to track return on investment (ROI) from new technology. Digital transformation is only successful if it delivers measurable business value in a timely manner.

*In the IDC study *The Business Value of IFS Cloud*, analysts highlighted how organisations using IFS Cloud benefit from enhanced operational efficiency, improved production planning, and streamlined reporting. Whether upgrading legacy systems or creating a foundation for future growth, the evidence shows that ERP transformation delivers real results.*

Proven ROI from IFS Cloud



414%

three-year return on investment



11-months

average payback period



\$2.5M

average annual staff efficiency gains



27%

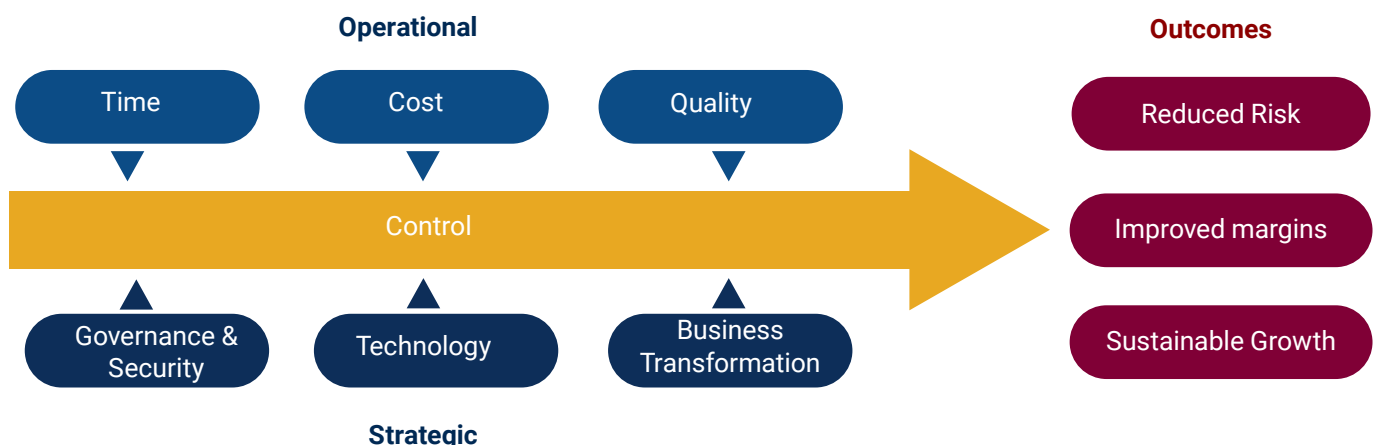
less time spent on budgetary cycles



18%

reduction in time to close period-end accounting

IFS Cloud Digital Maturity Goals





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IFS Cloud has demonstrated substantial business value across industries by enhancing operational efficiency, improving production planning, and streamlining reporting processes.”

IDC Business Value Study

Platned's role in delivering ROI

At **Platned**, we ensure that these kinds of outcomes are realised in practice. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, we implement, configure, and support **IFS Cloud™** so that businesses not only adopt modern ERP but also achieve measurable returns. Our approach focuses on aligning technology investment with business performance goals, ensuring that digital transformation creates lasting value.

Digital transformation enabled: evaluating technology solutions

Every journey to digital maturity begins with a clear understanding of business needs, both strategic and operational. For construction and engineering companies, this means looking beyond the immediate requirement of replacing legacy systems and instead designing a digital backbone that will support long-term transformation.

The industry recognises that an ERP platform designed specifically for construction is the essential starting point. ERP provides the foundation to standardise processes, centralise data, and enable collaboration across departments, regions, and projects. For CIOs, this is not just about modernising IT. It is a strategic, enterprise-wide decision that requires input from finance, operations, HR, compliance, and executive leadership. The goal is to elevate the conversation from simply upgrading systems to fundamentally enabling transformation through technology.

A structured approach to evaluation

Every digital transformation journey starts with a clear understanding of business priorities, both strategic and operational. For construction and engineering firms, this means looking beyond replacing outdated systems and instead creating a digital backbone that supports long-term change.

An ERP platform built specifically for construction is now recognised as the essential foundation. It helps standardise processes, centralise data, and improve collaboration across teams, regions, and projects. For CIOs, this is more than a technology upgrade. It is a strategic business decision that requires input from finance, operations, HR, compliance, and leadership to ensure it delivers value across the organisation. The aim is to move the discussion beyond IT modernisation and towards using technology to drive real business transformation.

This includes:

- **Business initiatives:** What outcomes does the organisation want to achieve?
- **As-Is landscape:** What systems, platforms, processes, and configurations are currently in place?
- **Future landscape:** What should the environment look like post-implementation, and how will the system support the business?
- **Enablers:** What actions or resources will enable success?
- **Obstacles:** What challenges may block progress?
- **Business case:** What financial rationale underpins the project?



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IFS Cloud provided comprehensive benefits across our business. The ERP system offered complete transparency, resource savings, and access to up-to-date functionality such as AI, which improved efficiency and information availability. It gave us a unified view of capacity and resource availability, removed reliance on spreadsheets, and prepared us for future workloads.”

IFS Cloud Customer

Platned's role in enabling digital maturity

At **Platned**, we help CIOs and leadership teams apply this structured approach in practice. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, we guide organisations through evaluation, implementation, and adoption of **IFS Cloud™**, ensuring the ERP solution matches both immediate business needs and future ambitions.

By working with Platned, CIOs gain more than a technology vendor. They gain a partner committed to delivering measurable ROI, overcoming barriers, and enabling digital maturity across the organisation.

What does a journey to digital maturity look like?

Digital transformation is not a single milestone but a phased journey. For construction and engineering organisations, the path to maturity typically follows six stages. The first three focus on adoption, while the next three focus on optimisation.

Stage 1: Basic digital adoption

Introduction of digital tools for specific tasks such as project management software or digital blueprints. The priority is training staff on these tools, improving data accuracy, and increasing accessibility.

Stage 2: Integrated systems

Implementation of an integrated project-centric ERP solution such as IFS Cloud™, designed to centralise data, streamline operations, and provide greater visibility and control and increasing accessibility.

Stage 3: Advanced digital integration

Introduction of advanced ERP capabilities including accounting, payroll, project management, and other core functions. At this stage, workflows are optimised, and collaboration between departments is strengthened.

Stage 4: Data-driven decision making

Organisations begin to fully leverage analytics for decision-making. Predictive maintenance, quality control, and real-time reporting become part of operations. This improves efficiency, reduces costs, and drives stronger project outcomes.

Stage 5: AI integration

AI technologies are deployed for automation, safety, and efficiency. Use cases include predictive analytics, automated inspections, and smarter resource allocation.

Stage 6: Continuous improvement and innovation

Emerging technologies are continually adopted, and processes are optimised. A culture of innovation is embedded across the organisation, ensuring digital transformation delivers long-term growth and resilience.

IFS Cloud ERP: a holistic, fully integrated Project Financial Control solution

One of the most critical priorities for construction and engineering companies is effective **project financial control**. While most businesses already have accounting systems in place, managing financial control across complex projects requires a broader, integrated approach.

IFS Cloud™ combines four essential capabilities in one ERP solution:

- **Financial accounting**
- **Cost and revenue transactions**
- **Project and contract management**
- **Project cost control**

Unlike traditional ERP, which focuses mainly on recording past performance, IFS Cloud provides future-focused insights. Real-time data, predictive tools, and integrated workflows enable faster and more informed decision-making.

With a single data repository — a true single source of truth — organisations gain visibility across the enterprise. In addition, IFS Cloud supports periodic project processes such as forecasts, snapshots, and period-end reviews to ensure financial control is consistent and accurate.





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CIOs and CFOs must work closely to control and improve profit margins as well as resource optimisation. Discover all the financial benefits from IFS Cloud in the CFO's Guide to Project Financial Control.

IFS Cloud

Platned's role in financial control

At **Platned**, we help CIOs and CFOs work together to achieve financial clarity and project transparency. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, we ensure that IFS Cloud delivers not only an ERP backbone but also a comprehensive financial control solution. The result is improved margins, optimised resources, and stronger decision-making across the business.

Diversification drives the need to support more than traditional construction

Construction and engineering firms are no longer limited to project-centric operations. Increasingly, they are diversifying into new revenue streams such as facilities and service management, prefabrication and modular construction, and even rental models for constructed assets. These strategies increase market value and financial stability while reducing exposure to economic uncertainty. This shift is also being driven by customer demand. Clients want partners who can provide full asset lifecycle support, from design and build through to operation, service, and eventual decommissioning. To meet these expectations, companies need a digital backbone that can support much more than traditional project delivery.

Supporting the entire asset lifecycle

IFS Cloud™, implemented and supported by Platned as an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, is designed to meet this broader requirement. The platform enables organisations to manage the complete lifecycle of an asset, including:

- Design and procurement
- Construction and installation
- Handover and commissioning
- Operation and maintenance
- Modification and refurbishment
- Decommissioning and disposal

For service, maintenance, and facilities management providers, IFS Cloud offers a dedicated environment with the capabilities needed to deliver value throughout the lifecycle.

Confidence in delivery

Regardless of complexity, IFS Cloud gives organisations the visibility and control to complete projects on time and within budget, while ensuring assets can be serviced and maintained over the long term. This flexibility allows companies to expand into new markets, increase resilience, and create predictable revenue streams.

Businesses also have a choice. They can adopt IFS Cloud as their full ERP backbone, or retain existing finance and HR systems while integrating IFS Cloud to manage operational processes. Open architecture ensures smooth integration with both existing and best-of-breed systems.

With Platned's expertise in implementation, integration, and continuous improvement, diversification becomes a managed and measurable success.

Open architecture equals seamless integration

Modern construction and engineering businesses require flexibility. Even with powerful native ERP capabilities, many organisations need to integrate best-of-breed tools to address specific requirements.

IFS Cloud™, delivered and supported by **Platned**, offers an open, composable architecture that readily integrates with existing and third-party software. This means businesses can adopt as much or as little IFS functionality as they need, while maintaining seamless workflows across the enterprise.

IFS Cloud integrates smoothly with:

- **Planning:** Native planning tools, or integration with Microsoft Project and Primavera
- **Estimating:** Built-in estimation tools, with options to integrate specialist third-party solutions
- **Common Data Environment (CDE) & site collaboration:** Integration with platforms such as Procore, Autodesk BIM 360, Oracle Aconex, and Asite for efficient communication and document sharing
- **CAD, BIM and PLM:** Support for advanced design tools including Revit, Tekla, Bentley, and Siemens Synchro

This flexibility ensures that organisations can modernise their digital backbone without losing the value of existing investments in specialised tools.

Looking ahead: strategic planning for CIOs

The industry's top five strategic initiatives highlight the longer-term priorities that CIOs must prepare for:

- #1** Growing the business and/or increasing market value **(39%)**
- #2** Attracting and training the next generation of skilled construction and engineering workers **(38%)**
- #3** Leveraging AI and automation to improve efficiency **(36%)**
- #4** Driving innovation and improving digital maturity **(36%)**
- #5** Prioritising sustainability and ESG goals **(35%)**

The message is clear. CIOs must take a strategic mindset, with long-term goals enabled by increasing digital maturity. Visionary leadership is essential for planning and delivering transformation across the business.

At **Platned**, we partner with CIOs to align these long-term goals with technology execution. As an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, we help organisations use IFS Cloud as the backbone for innovation, efficiency, and sustainable growth. Our role is to ensure that CIOs are not only prepared for today's challenges but also equipped to lead their organisations into the future.

IFS Open Architecture Digital Backbone



To build for the future, your business must be agile

For construction and engineering firms, the future depends on agility. Organisations must anticipate changing market demands and adapt quickly with new processes and capabilities. This is only possible by embracing transformative technologies such as Industrial AI, automation, BIM, and IoT.

IFS Cloud™, supported by **Platned** as an **IFS Gold Services Partner**, provides a future-proof platform that integrates seamlessly with existing systems. Its open architecture design and evergreen updates mean businesses can choose when to adopt new functionality, maintaining total control. User-friendly interfaces make it easy for employees to embrace new tools, ensuring adoption is rapid and consistent.

With IFS Cloud, CIOs can enable new opportunities, revenue streams, and business models. Accurate real-time data and integrated project financial control give leaders the confidence to grow sustainably while protecting margins.

Choose a digital ERP backbone with Platned and IFS Cloud

Working with Platned means more than selecting a leading ERP platform. It means gaining a partner who will implement, integrate, and continuously support IFS Cloud to deliver measurable business outcomes. Together, we ensure that technology adoption becomes a driver of efficiency, resilience, and long-term growth.

Built for construction, designed for control...

IFS Cloud delivers an integrated, single-sourced construction centric ERP solution that includes world class project financial control that goes beyond accounting and helps you manage the future, not the past.

One platform for an agile diverse business...

The IFS Cloud platform supports a changing business model that goes beyond delivering construction projects.

- Industrialized Construction & Manufacturing
- Equipment Maintenance and Rental
- Service, Maintenance & Facilities Management
- Supply Chain and Logistics Services

- ✓ Infuse intelligence
- ✓ Data-driven project control
- ✓ Close the digital gap
- ✓ Adopt best practice repeatable processes
- ✓ Support standardization

- ✓ Reduce IT system complexity
- ✓ Gain evergreen updates
- ✓ Support business diversification
- ✓ Composable and Configurable Supports business change & diversification

Who we are

Platned is an IFS Gold Services Partner, delivering ERP, EAM, and service management solutions for construction, engineering, manufacturing, energy, utilities, and service-focused organisations. With teams across the UK, US, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East, we support customers globally in unlocking value from their IFS investment.

We help companies:



Start projects faster



Reduce costs and grow revenue



Deliver projects on time, on budget, and at high quality



Improve agility and adaptability



Drive innovation and sustainability



Enhance customer and end-user experience



Work with greater control, autonomy, and efficiency



Proactively manage risk

With IFS Cloud and Platned, organisations gain not only a digital ERP backbone but also a trusted partner for transformation, innovation, and growth.

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 specialise in helping companies maximise uptime, improve project delivery, and reduce costs with **IFS Cloud™** and complementary technologies. Our expertise spans end-to-end implementation, integration, training, support, and continuous improvement, so our customers gain long-term value from their ERP investment.

With a global team operating across the UK, US, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East, Platned combines deep IFS expertise with a culture of collaboration and trust. We work side by side with customers to unlock measurable results and ensure their systems evolve with their business.

Together with IFS, we deliver the technology, skills, and support needed to transform how organisations operate, ensuring they stay competitive, sustainable, and ready for the future.

Find out more about how Platned can help your business today:
platned.com

