

Designing and building the future

Five key 2025 construction & engineering industry predictions



Contents

Beyond the blueprint.....	03
Prediction #1: Digital maturity and ERP adoption.....	04
Risks of delaying digital transformation.....	05
Prediction #2: Diversifying for growth.....	06
Strategies for successful diversification	07
Prediction #3: Standardising processes and repeatability.....	08
Enabling global best practices	09
Prediction #4: Sustainability as a digital priority.....	10
Technology that enables ESG success.....	11
Prediction #5: Centralised data and Industrial AI.....	12
Laying the foundation for innovation.....	13
Building a successful data strategy.....	13
Why ERP initiatives succeed — or fail.....	14
From predictions to performance.....	15

Beyond the blueprint

Most industries are undergoing significant upheaval driven by rapid technology adoption, from Artificial Intelligence to automation. Yet, construction and engineering remain distinct. In 2025, this industry will experience a fundamental shift in how longstanding challenges like profitability, productivity, and value delivery are approached.

At Platned, we understand these challenges. That's why we work with customers to help modernise their operations, leveraging IFS Cloud™ to overhaul legacy systems and empower their workforce with the tools to succeed in a digitally transformed environment.

In the coming year, over half of construction and engineering firms are expected to make major upgrades to their business systems. This change is driven by the need for greater efficiency and resilience in an unpredictable economic climate.

With IFS Cloud™, companies can adopt modern, integrated business models. These include industrialised construction and sustainability-led strategies, all built on a futureproof platform. This also means introducing new revenue models, expanding service portfolios, and optimising project execution.

This document from Platned, in collaboration with IFS, shares five key predictions shaping the industry's future. Infused with insights from a global research study of 825 leaders, it serves as a strategic guide for businesses designing and building the future.



Prediction #1

Digital maturity and ERP adoption


63% of construction and engineering firms are actively seeking to implement a new ERP platform within the next 1–2 years. This is not a just a tech refresh - it's the start of an enterprise-wide transformation.


Construction businesses typically operate with a fragmented set of tools and systems, many of which are outdated or reliant on manual processes. The overuse of Excel spreadsheets to run critical operations has led to poor data accuracy, inefficiencies, and missed opportunities.

Platned helps customers adopt IFS Cloud™ to address these challenges head-on. As a single, unified platform, it enables:

 Integrated project management across regions and divisions

 Standardisation of business processes to support scale and agility

 Elimination of data silos for improved decision-making

 Real-time data visibility to improve responsiveness and performance



IFS Global Research Study Insight:

“The #2 most important short-term goal was improving digital maturity by increasing the effective use of technology.”

Risks of delaying digital transformation

By implementing IFS Cloud™, businesses are better equipped to standardise practices, increase their digital maturity, and lay the foundation for Industrial AI.

The cost of delaying digital transformation can be severe:



Projects struggle to deliver consistently across locations, reducing visibility into areas needing improvement.



Excessive Excel use compromises data accuracy, making reports unreliable and exposing the business to risks.



Localised department optimisation doesn't translate to overall project success.



Reporting becomes slow and reactive, undermining decision-making.



Disconnected systems require manual data entry, increasing the chance of error.



Business expansion and acquisitions become more difficult to manage and control.

At Platned, we support your transition away from disconnected legacy systems and empower your teams to build smarter, more resilient operations.



Prediction #2

Diversifying for growth

60% of construction and engineering companies are planning to diversify their business models over the next three years.

At Platned, we help customers turn this ambition into action using IFS Cloud™. Diversification enables businesses to evolve from traditional project-based revenue into areas like:



Facilities and
asset lifecycle
management



Service contracts
and aftercare
operations



Rental models for
construction assets
and equipment

This shift supports recurring, predictable revenue streams, improves resilience in uncertain markets, and responds to the growing client demand for end-to-end value.



IFS Global Research Study Insight:

“The #1 expected benefit of adopting a new ERP system was improved agility to grow and diversify the business.”

Strategies for successful diversification

Diversification also signals a shift in the industry's value proposition. Customers increasingly expect providers to support the full asset lifecycle, not just the design and build phases. This transformation involves evolving into a long-term partner delivering lasting value.

IFS Cloud™, delivered by Platned, supports this transition by:

- Enabling entry into new sectors, services, or geographies
- Supporting mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures with ease
- Standardising core business processes across entities
- Allowing fast implementation of best practices

Organic growth is limited by local market conditions. To achieve accelerated growth, companies must shift to more scalable business strategies.

This leads us to consider two further areas of strategic focus:



Geographic Expansion: For companies entering new markets, it's essential that their business systems support compliance with local regulations, including tax, accounting, and language requirements. IFS Cloud™ handles multi-country, multi-currency operations, ensuring seamless scaling.



Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A): With industry consolidation on the rise, companies must be able to integrate new entities quickly. Platned ensures IFS Cloud™ supports rapid onboarding and embeds consistent operational processes. This minimises risk and accelerates time-to-value.

IFS Cloud™ allows acquired units to operate within your business model from day one. Whether it's scaling into new markets or adding new service offerings, Platned ensures that your ERP system will support your vision for future growth.



Prediction #3

Standardising processes and repeatability

In the next 1–2 years, **80% of companies** are looking to adopt repeatable, industry-standard processes that improve both project delivery and business performance.

Platned enables this shift by implementing IFS Cloud™ as a digital platform that encourages consistency, quality and continuous improvement. There are two key aspects to this:

1. Standardising workflows: With templated work breakdown structures (WBS), project plans, and execution models, companies can run projects in a consistent way. This improves reporting, enhances project management, and enables lessons learned to be applied across future initiatives.

2. Standardising components: By using modular or prefabricated construction elements and a centralised database of materials and designs, companies can create scalable, repeatable building processes. This industrialised approach enhances quality, speed, and cost-effectiveness.



Enabling global best practices

Many companies operate across multiple divisions and regions. They don't want to replicate inefficient practices within a new ERP - IFS Cloud™ offers a chance to establish global standards that truly work.

Key drivers of this trend include:

- The shift toward industrialised construction
- The need to eliminate reliance on Excel
- More structured and unified data models (WBS, Cost Codes, etc.)
- The demand for real-time, integrated financial and project controls

Platned empowers organisations to move beyond custom-built, one-off project management approaches. With IFS Cloud™, you can build a repeatable foundation for growth, quality improvement and innovation.



Prediction #4

Sustainability as a digital priority

By the end of 2025, over 60% of construction and engineering companies will embed sustainability into their digital transformation efforts.

The industry is under growing pressure to reduce its environmental impact. It contributes 37% of global CO₂ emissions and faces increasing scrutiny from regulators, clients and investors alike.

Platned helps businesses address sustainability with IFS Cloud™, which enables them to track, manage, and report on ESG targets through trusted data. Whether complying with European CSRD requirements or achieving North American LEED certifications, a digital platform is essential.



Technology that enables ESG success

Key sustainability drivers:

- Rising demand for low-carbon buildings (3x higher than supply)
- Over 50,000 companies globally expected to report ESG data
- New home construction in the US alone generates 50 million tons of embodied carbon annually

IFS Cloud™ enables better ESG performance by:

- Capturing data in real time and across departments
- Automating sustainability reporting and compliance
- Improving equipment and resource utilisation
- Supporting design for reuse and modular construction models

Reliable, auditable data is essential for:

- Building investor and regulator trust
- Verifying sustainability claims
- Informing smarter business decisions



Prediction #5

Centralised data and Industrial AI

55% of companies are planning to embed intelligence into their operations by establishing real-time, unified data systems.

Many construction firms remain reliant on a mix of disconnected tools - documents, spreadsheets, siloed software - which prevents them from leaping to data-driven decision-making. Without consistent, trustworthy data, Artificial Intelligence and automation cannot be successfully implemented.

Platned helps businesses harmonise their data and move to a centralised digital platform with IFS Cloud™. This allows for:

- Real-time project insights from a single source of truth
- Structured, standardised data for analytics and AI
- Faster, more accurate business decisions



IFS Global Research

Study Insight:

One of the top 3 short-term goals is to leverage data more effectively

One of the top 3 drivers for modernising IT systems is to integrate data for streamlined processes



Laying the foundation for innovation

With IFS Cloud™, businesses can modernise their IT landscape, eliminate duplication, and build the strong data foundation needed for the future of AI in construction.

Platned empowers you to unlock the full potential of your data - giving your teams the clarity, consistency and confidence to automate, innovate and grow.

Building a successful data strategy

For the construction and engineering industry, improving data isn't just a technical necessity – it's the foundation for better performance. Companies are increasingly moving away from document-heavy practices and fragmented software ecosystems to centralised, structured data environments. This enables better visibility, decision-making and innovation across the asset lifecycle.

With IFS Cloud™, Platned supports clients in transitioning from static spreadsheets and disconnected systems to real-time, standardised project data that supports digital design, scheduling, procurement, asset tracking and lifecycle performance. We help businesses adopt data models that support BIM, digital twins and design for manufacture and assembly (DfMA).

The goal is clear: move to a world where project data flows seamlessly from design through to handover, enabling digital construction, predictive analytics and AI-driven optimisation.

Why ERP initiatives succeed — or fail

Many companies view ERP as an IT upgrade, rather than a strategic investment in business transformation. This leads to poor outcomes, including limited ROI, scope creep, and low user adoption. Platned works with businesses to avoid these pitfalls by reframing ERP as a platform for scalable innovation.

IFS Cloud™ supports true transformation by delivering sector-specific capabilities out of the box, reducing the need for costly customisation. We also help organisations:

- Define measurable outcomes and success metrics from the start
- Prioritise business value over features during system selection
- Design governance models that ensure continuous improvement
- Align cross-functional teams around shared KPIs and processes



From predictions to performance

These five industry trends provide a roadmap for building a high-performance construction and engineering business. Companies that embrace this change can expect significant benefits - from increased efficiency and margins, to stronger ESG performance and AI-readiness.

IFS Cloud™, delivered by Platned, helps businesses operationalise these trends by delivering a single digital platform that connects finance, operations, projects, procurement, asset management and field service.

Key benefits include:

- Faster, more accurate reporting and forecasting
- Standardisation across entities, regions and joint ventures
- Stronger governance and control over complex project portfolios
- Improved cost visibility and project margins
- Enhanced data accuracy for ESG, safety and compliance reporting

As 63% of companies plan to evaluate ERP within the next 24 months, early adopters will set the pace for transformation. Partnering with Platned ensures your digital journey is industry-specific, outcome-focused and future-ready.



Start your journey today at **platned.com**

Contact Platned today to learn more
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