

# Project Description & Motivation: Why?

#### **Analysis of Data Output from Estimating Software:**

For businesses which rely on winning bids to secure projects, analyzing estimating data from past and current projects can:

- Improve win percentages on future bids
- Significantly improve the accuracy of estimates
- Improve Profitabality
- Target jobs which best fit production schedules

#### Top 3 Datasets Being Pursued

#### 1. Common Estimate Tables: These tables are common to all estimates.

- Shapes: The shapes data base defines the material shape. I.E. Angle, Channel, Beam, Pipe, Tubing, etc.
- Sizes: The Shapes data defines the size of each shape. I.E. An Angle Could be a 4x4x1/4, meaning each leg of the angle is 4'' wide and 1/4'' thick.
- Grade: The Grade data base contains the types of grades for all material shapes and sizes used within the estimate. I.E. strength, ductility, chemical makeup, etc.

- Laborgroups: The laborgroups data defined the types of labor: I.E.
   Material handling, Sawing, Drilling, Welding, Painting, etc.
- Laborrates: The Laborrates data defines the cost for each labor group. I.E. Sawing \$125/hr, Welding \$80/hr, Painting \$75/hr, etc.

- 2. Manual Estimate Tables: These tables are generated from each individual manual estimate. A manual estimate is typically completed by an estimator based off of customer supplied drawings.
  - Estimateitems: Defines the particular material selected for each part in the estimate. I.E. A job has a Column, the column is to be made out of a material shape, size, and grade at a specified length.
  - EstimateItemlaborgroups: Each Estimateitem has labor hours applied to it from each labor group. I.E. The column above has .5 hours of sawing applied, 1 hour of welding applied, and .75 hours of painting applied, etc.
  - Estimate: The estimate data provides information identifying the estimate such as jobname, estimate #, customer, etc.. The estimate data also provides a summary of all of the estimate items, including material weight, number of pieces, and summary of total labor hours and cost.

- 3. Estimodel Tables: These tables are generated from each individually detailed and engineered computer model of won projects.
  - An Estimodel is typically generated for awarded jobs based off of production models.
  - The Estimodel is automatically generated based off of the same parameters setup in the Manual Estimate. However,:
    - The Estimodel is generated automatically by computer.
    - The Estimodel is usually much more accurate.
      - Does not conservatively over estimate
      - Does not miss or overlook items.
      - Identifies part numbers for each unique item which can be aligned with production part numbers.
      - Can be used by Purchasing for very accurate nesting and procurement of materials in exact shapes, sizes, grades and lengths required for production.
      - Can be used to generate accurate sequential production schedules.

- The tables used for the Estimodel are believed to be the exact tables used for the manual estimates, however we have not verified.
  - From examination of the Estimodel data, it is apparent much more data is generated by the Estimodel.
  - Very important production information is identified:
    - Main part numbers identify each part to be shipped to jobsite
    - Small part numbers small parts attached to main parts.

- For this project, we did not examine the Estimodel data:
  - We believe Data Engineering should follow fundelmental sound engineering practices.

#### FOCUS ON THE WEAKEST LINK



#### Why is the Manual Estimate data worth exploring?

#### Before we can improve the Manual Estimate process, we must be able to accurately validate it.

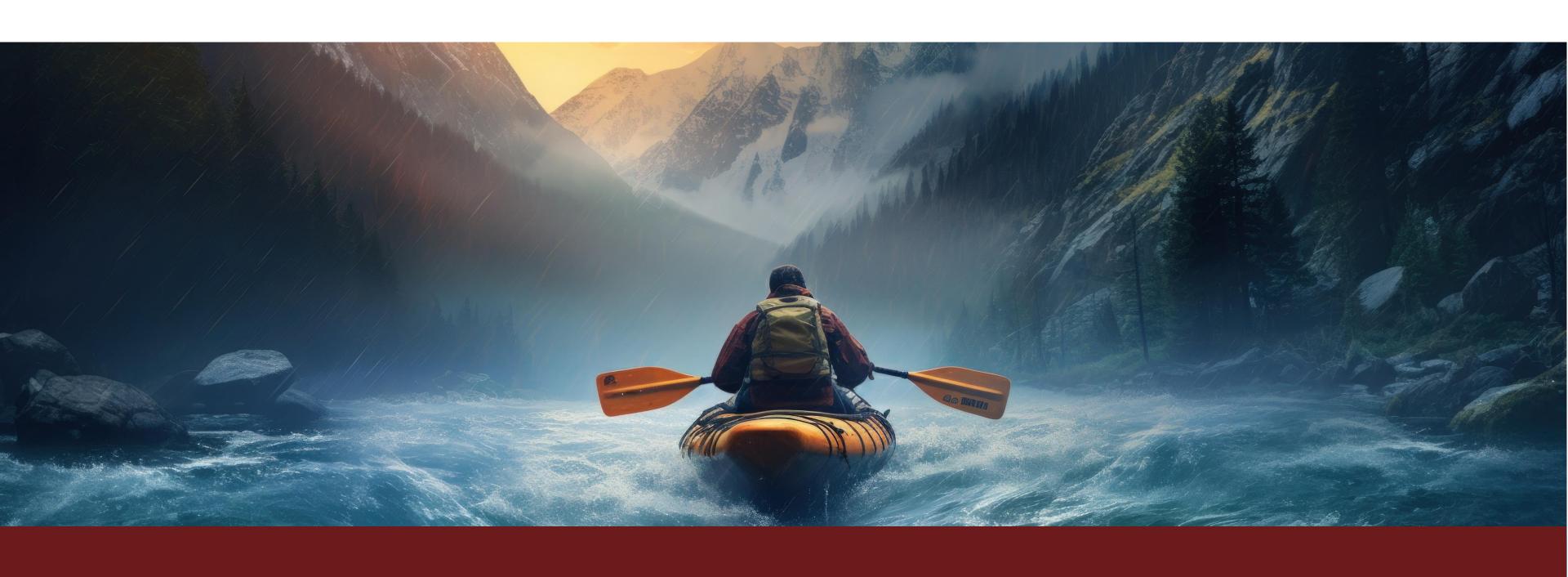
- Currently, the only way we have to systematically validate the manual estimating process is to wait until each job is complete. Once a job is complete, accounting summarizes all of the materials and labor and compares it against the estimate summaries at a macro level. Why is this a problem:
  - Timeframe: The time it takes to complete a large job maybe several years.
  - We and only see totals:
    - Total material for each material group
    - Total labor for each labor group
  - Manual Estimates do not have part numbers:
    - We have no way to systematically compare manual estimates to estimodel and ultimately to production at a part level.

#### **Hypothesis / Solution:**

- Thru data analysis we can systematically identify relationships between the material and labor take-offs in the Manual Estimate and associate them with part numbers within the Estimodel and production.
- The Project was a huge success in completing the first step in HME's Continuous Improvement Process to systematically validate the accuracy of the Manual Estimating Process a production part level.

# KEYS TO CONTINUED SUCCESS MOVING FORWARD WITH THE NEXT PHASE OF THIS PROJECT

# BE WILLING TO EBB AND FLOW WITH THE INFORMATION THE DATA GIVES US



#### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IS KEY

