Automated RFI Processing: Streamlining Construction Workflows

Problem

In construction, Requests for Information (RFIs) are critical for resolving design or specification ambiguities, but their manual processing is a significant bottleneck. Reviewing RFI documents, extracting key details, cross-referencing project specifications, and drafting responses can take hours per RFI, delaying project timelines and increasing costs. For a company like EDECS, managing complex marine, infrastructure, and building projects across Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, inefficiencies in RFI handling disrupt schedules and strain client relationships. Errors in responses, such as misinterpreting specifications, further risk costly rework.

Affected Roles

- **Project Managers**: Oversee RFI workflows, spending excessive time coordinating responses, impacting project oversight.
- **Design Engineers**: Manually review RFIs and project documents, diverting focus from core design tasks.
- **Site Supervisors**: Wait for RFI resolutions, delaying on-site work like concrete pours or structural installations.
- **Clients**: Experience delays in project milestones, eroding trust in EDECS' efficiency.

Solution

An AI agent that automates RFI processing by parsing PDFs, extracting details (e.g., question, project ID, urgency), querying project documents, and drafting responses can reduce processing time by 70%, ensuring timely, accurate communication. This aligns with EDECS' focus on efficiency and client satisfaction in high-stakes construction projects.