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Mini-Interview, Rosendin Electric

The adoption of prefab and modular is increasing at an incredible rate. However, there are many teams still in the early stages of their journey. What advice do you wish you had when getting started that could really help to accelerate the rate of success with establishing new operations?

Just get started. Back in 1986 when I first started to prefab and package myself, it was unheard of on the West Coast, and no one was doing it in the electrical trades. I am not even sure people were using the term 'prefab' at all. Having to start from scratch is probably the single most daunting task in starting your prefab and packaging journey. Reaching out to vendor partners is now a great way to start and establish prefab and packaging if you face space constraints, which so many contractors have. Too often the contractor feels as if they are all alone in their pursuit, and do not reach out across regions to perhaps a peer group, that can share with them how they started, and the lessons they have learned along the way.

In the past year, what is the most exciting development that your team have made in your prefab capabilities?

We are getting close to standardizing materials across the enterprise and our BIM department has made great strides in modelling branch, both of which can help us to drive even more work offsite, and into our prefab and packaging facilities.

Considering all of the potential that this approach holds, what is the most exciting thing you have seen or would like to explore yourselves in the coming years to really break the boundaries and reach the next level of adoption?

I think VR & AR is the next step for us. Virtual reality in training is going to gain speed and help us shorten the learning curve for many tasks, and augmented reality will help us reach the next level of eliminating steps in the field.

Being able to limit or even completely eliminate layout time, and go straight to installing our prefabricated components in the same step could be a real game changer.

Also, standardizing as much as we can across the enterprise will allow for greater efficiencies and a higher level of quality for the customer.

What can people expect to take away from the tour of the Rosendin facility at Advancing Prefabrication 2019?

We are hoping they will have a better sense of how to set up a facility for smoother work flow processes, and perhaps gain a little insight as to answering the question of 'why', which so many contractors still have.

What, in your opinion, will be the highlight of this event?

The opportunity to learn. There will be great presentations by leaders in industry which all people that attend can tap into for learning more of the how and why. That's why we continue to attend each year - participating in this event allows us to learn and grow ourselves. We certainly don't know all of the answers, and a forum such as this allows for us to keep getting closer to what we are trying to accomplish: better outcomes for both our customers and ourselves.

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