

# Cost Estimating Software vs. CostWorks™

## Enhanced Productivity for SABER, JOC, IDIQ ...

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*Abstract:* This paper highlights the differences between e4Clicks Project Estimator Software™ - an integrated software solution for cost estimating and project management, and CostWorks - an electronic cost book and cost calculator. Primary areas of consideration include estimating, team collaboration, RSMMeans™ database enhancements and SABER-JOC-IDIQ contract compliance and execution: 1. RSMMeans CostWorks is an electronic representation of RSMMeans Cost books, a basic cost calculator that relies upon associated management via traditional spreadsheets. e4Clicks Project Estimator is an integrated tool that enables Owners, Contractors, and AEs to manage JOC-SABER programs. 2. CostWorks is a single user application. e4Clicks is a multi-user platform that allows for collaboration and easy sharing of information. 3. e4Clicks assures contract compliance by not simply having a cell in a spreadsheet with calculated totals, hidden formulas, and lack of traceability. e4Clicks tracks every change, including the ability to note what was changed and why.

In addition to these items, there are a host of other very important features exclusive to e4Clicks Project Estimator: Integrates document management, contract management and electronic takeoff, all in one program. Owner ability to import contractor estimates, create a quick, automated side-by-side comparison showing differences and deltas. This ability to create a clear comparison of owner and contractor information prepares owners for faster, and more accurate negotiations with contractors. Lastly sharing detailed estimates is simple and easy. For example, rather than create a project entirely from scratch, estimators can use something from the past and update pricing and change quantities in minutes.



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By Estimators For Estimators™  
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## AT A GLANCE

### Electronic Cost Books & Calculators – CostWorks™

- Electronic representation of RSMean Cost Books
- Limited capability for detailed cost estimating
- Difficult to find items
- Inconsistent line item descriptions
- No Reporting Capability
- No ability to populate government forms

### SABER/JOC Cost Estimating Software – e4Clicks Project Estimator™

- Designed and supported – “By Estimators for Estimators”
- Integrated estimate, contract, & project mgmt.
- Copy/Paste Estimates
- 400,000+ RSMean database – modifiers, full descriptions
- Automatically compare Owner and Contractor estimates
- Used by 80% of USAF bases for SABER/IDIQ, and rapidly growing numbers of DOD (Army, NSA), and non-DOD Federal Government Departments (GSA, VA, NASA, DOI...)

## INTRODUCTION

Accurate, timely, and transparent cost estimating is critical to the success of any renovation, repair, sustainability, or new construction project. While most construction cost estimators continue to rely primarily upon hardcopy documents and electronic spreadsheets such as Microsoft Excel™, many are beginning to use electronic cost books and associated “calculator” software tools, such as RSMean™ CostWorks™.

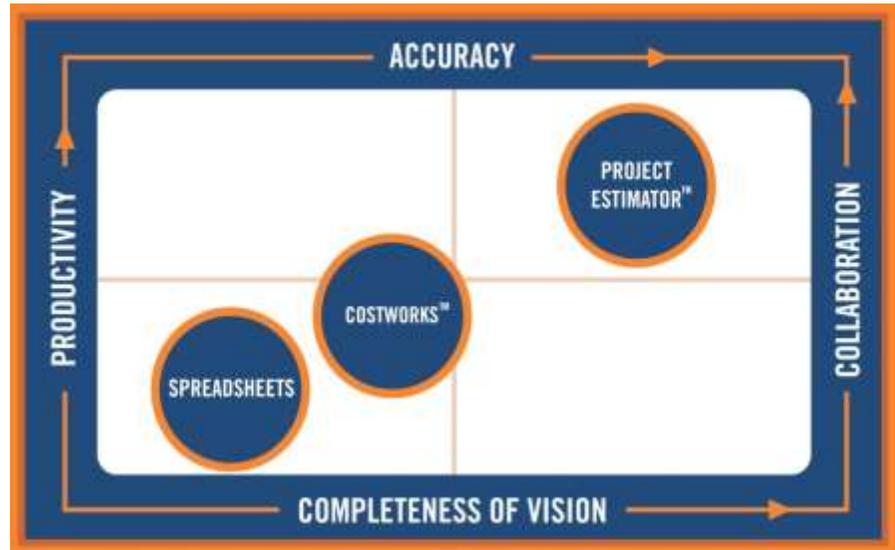
While both of the use of spreadsheets and the associated use of RSMean CostWorks have merit and are well suited for certain types of users they are not appropriate for JOC/SABER contracts.

***SABER, JOC, IDIQ, and similar project delivery methods demand higher levels of productivity, collaboration, accuracy, transparency, and performance.*** Government Owners, Contractors, and AEs are rapidly moving to advanced easy-to-use, software technology which has been specifically developed for cost estimating and management for SABER, JOC, IDIQ and similar project delivery methods.

Thus, **e4Clicks Project Estimator is used by over 80% of United States Air Force Bases for SABER contracts**, as well as growing numbers of other DOD (Army, NSA...) and non-DOD Federal Government Departments (GSA, VA, ...). They are discovering that significantly higher productivity (50%+) can be achieved as well as more efficient communication and better relationships with Contractors and AEs.

## CostWorks – ELECTRONIC COST BOOKS AND COST CALCULATOR

RSMean's Company is North America's leading source for commercial construction cost data, including materials, equipment, labor line items, productivity factors, as well as assembly and square foot cost information. Localized cost indexes are also available, referred to as City Cost Indexes (CCIs). CostWorks is an electronic representation of RSMean's Cost Books with limited cost estimating capabilities. It is commonly referred to as a cost calculator as opposed to a cost estimating system.



Integrating electronic cost book information directly with a cost calculator is a logical next logical step, vs. using spread sheets as it can reduce data entry errors. However, several issues remain. First, the RSMean's cost data itself simply moved into CostWorks, vs. checked to assure full, accurate line item descriptions. Secondly, **modifiers have not been fully developed within CostWorks** for an estimator's ease of use. Perhaps most importantly, *CostWorks lacks the ability* to easily and rapidly create, share, copy, and paste estimates, compare Owner/Contractor estimates, print estimates along with associated specifications, and a wide range of day-to-day activities associated with these programs... all within a single software application.

## e4Clicks Project Estimator – A COLLABORATIVE COST ESTIMATING SOFTWARE SOLUTION for SABER/JOC/IDIQ ...

Spreadsheets and CostWorks may indeed be reasonable alternatives for individuals performing a small number of relatively straight forward, simple, construction, repair, or renovation estimates, for example three (3) to five (5) basic estimates per year. However, both spreadsheets and CostWorks do not meet the need for collaboration, transparency, work flow, document management, maximized productivity, nor do they provide a capacity to adhere to and report upon compliance relative to specific construction delivery methods and/or contracts, such as Job Order Contracting (JOC), Simplified Acquisition of Base Engineering Requirements (SABER), and Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ), etc. As a collaborative cost estimating and project management solution, **e4Clicks Project Estimator empowers owners, contactors, and AEs to improve upon construction project delivery processes to meet their individual and changing requirements.**

4Clicks Project Estimator allows users to create estimates and manage multiple types of projects and contract methods: JOC, SABER, IPD, Single Award Task Order Contracting (SATOC), Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC), Multiple Award Construction Contract (MACC), Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite

Quantity (IDIQ), Performance Oriented Construction Activities (POCA), and Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA), all within one application. Users can select from enhanced RSMMeans electronic cost data, including an exclusive 400,000 line item database with full descriptions and modifiers as well as graphics, diagrams, and specifications, and/or custom/internal cost information or other standard/custom unit price cost books, and even use advance visual estimating and quantity take-off.

Visual estimating saves time, delivers higher accuracy, and improves collaboration. eTakeoff™, included within e4Clicks Project Estimator, stands head and shoulders above other visual estimating solutions, enabling estimators to quickly and accurately visualize requirements and trace electronic drawings to determine quantities for line items within estimates. Drawings can be shared in various formats including Adobe Systems Portable Document Format (PDF). The eTakeoff/e4Clicks integration enables users to quickly transfer to e4Clicks Project Estimator.

<b>SPREADSHEETS</b> Excel®	<b>ELECTRONIC CALCULATORS</b> CostWorks™	<b>COST ESTIMATING SOFTWARE</b> e4Clicks™	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build estimates one at a time from scratch</li> <li>Common interface, customizable, low perceived cost</li> <li>Formula errors, formulae that no longer function as intended</li> <li>Projects under or overestimated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic access to RSMMeans Cost Books*</li> <li>Spreadsheet-like look and feel</li> <li>Limited estimating capabilities/features</li> <li>City Cost Index Support</li> <li>* Approximately 80,000 line items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Collaboration among Owners, Contractors, and Sub-contractors</li> <li>Handle multi-step/complex processes</li> <li>Multi-contract, multi-award management</li> <li>Reuse and share estimates</li> <li>Automatic variance/comparison reporting – estimates, projects, contracts</li> <li>Integrated Document Management-Project Management-Visual estimating/ QTO</li> <li>Run reports on projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standardize estimates, processes, and documents</li> <li>Track milestones</li> <li>Easily modify for current/localized pricing situations- City Cost Index (CCI) direct</li> <li>Integration</li> <li>Re-price estimates from year to year in seconds</li> <li>Exclusive, enhanced 400,000 line item RSMMeans Cost Database</li> <li>Easily support multiple cost databases/unit price books (UPBs)</li> <li>Full line item descriptions, pictures, and graphics</li> </ul>

**THE EVOLUTION OF CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

## Visual estimating allows you to:

- Estimate and pre-bid processes without paper plans.
- Create measurements by tracing upon electronic drawings.
- View plans with powerful zooming and scrolling capabilities.
- Display measurements in an infinite variety of colors and patterns to identify the type of construction or the materials used.
- Total measurements from multiple plan sheets.

### Estimating

Save time, reduce errors, and improve efficiency



- ✓ Break free from spreadsheets and let our technology work for you
- ✓ Quickly access full line item descriptions, notes, takeoffs, crews, pricing info, and more
- ✓ Easily incorporate your own custom line items or integrate items from any industry guide
- ✓ Manage multiple estimates within each of your team's projects

### Contract and Document Management

Get organized



- ✓ Organize, standardize, and share your electronic files and project documents
- ✓ Create templates that will auto populate with project data
- ✓ Run all of your contracts in one program
- ✓ Automatically link your line items to your construction specifications

### eTakeoff Plan Viewer

The evolution of estimating



- ✓ Powerful virtual quantity take-off eliminates paper plans
- ✓ Measure and color code counts, lengths, and quantities with ease
- ✓ Measurements from multiple plan sheets are easily totaled
- ✓ Supports multiple file formats including PDF, DWG, and TIFF

### RSMeans and IDIQ Pricing

Find your items in seconds



- ✓ Get more than an electronic book, get the best RSMeans data integration available
- ✓ Your RSMeans and IDIQ cost books are a click away
- ✓ Easily select from 400,000+ detailed line items as well as your customized items
- ✓ Enjoy the most powerful, intuitive search features

[www.4Clicks.com](http://www.4Clicks.com)