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Move forward with projects now to save materials costs



Take heed if you have been holding off on a construction project: Prices for many materials have stopped falling and are poised for increases.

The key price driver in the next few months will be higher imported commodity prices due to the depreciating U.S. dollar and a sharp rise in demand for commodities overseas. Metals, roofing materials and asphalt are projected to tick upward, while lumber, gypsum and concrete products are expected to rise by a lesser degree, according to Reed Construction Data.

“Materials prices have bottomed out,” says John Brady, pre-construction director at Krusinski Construction Company. “Those who have held off on projects until now will find this a great time to buy construction products and

services.”

Krusinski monitors price trends carefully and communicates the changes to clients so that they are better informed and can prepare for future fluctuations. The company also thinks long-term to protect budgets from escalating costs. Strategies include:

- Buying materials well in advance of construction to lock in prices
- Buying locally or regionally produced materials rather than shipping them cross-country
- Substituting less-expensive materials without sacrificing quality
- Reusing and recycling materials

To get the most value for your construction dollar, now is the time to move ahead with that project you’ve been holding off on.

For more information about how Krusinski can help you achieve cost savings, contact John Brady at johnb@krusinski.com.

Value engineering scores big for Laborers’ project



Krusinski Construction Company saved the Chicagoland Laborers’ Training and Education Trust Fund significant money using value engineering in building a training center in Chicago – without sacrificing quality and safety.

Value engineering focuses on finding ways to reduce project costs with creative solutions. Krusinski analyzed the design and materials in detail and proposed cost-effective alternatives, when appropriate.

For example, instead of excavating and replacing unsuitable soil with structural fill at the site, Krusinski opted to stabilize the soil using aggregate piers. This allowed the existing soil to remain in place — an approach that was significantly more effective, says Dominic Valvano, project engineer at Krusinski. The savings didn't stop there, however. Krusinski reduced the number of aggregate piers the project originally called for after conducting an extensive on-site soil analysis.

In another cost-saving measure, Krusinski reduced the amount of plantings required for the 7,000-square-foot vegetated roof garden on the east side of the building. Krusinski identified other opportunities to maintain value while minimizing costs, says Jeff Moecher, senior project manager at Krusinski.

Construction began in October 2008 and was completed in September 2009. The center provides training for laborers in fundamentals such as trenching, backfilling, compaction, installing underground utilities and welding. Classrooms, a 20,000-square-foot auditorium and equipment/vehicle storage areas comprise the facility.

“A lot of talent, teamwork and resources from Krusinski Construction Company pulled together to provide the client with a first-class product,” Valvano says.

The members of the Krusinski project team included Jeff Moecher, senior project manager; Dan Gratzl, project superintendent; Dominic Valvano, project engineer; and Shawn Barry, general superintendent.

Krusinski Construction remains active in the Citadel Group

Fourteen years after forming the Citadel Group, Krusinski Construction Company continues to leverage the organization's resources to benefit clients.



Construction companies, architects and other construction-related companies that operate in 15 cities comprise the group. They share their expertise, best practices, lessons learned and new technology as part of their commitment to continuous improvement.

“The synergy among the members is outstanding,” says Jerry Krusinski, president and chief operating officer of Krusinski Construction Company. “We

share the same philosophy, attention to detail and dedication to our clients.”

The principals participate in monthly conference calls and quarterly meetings. Other members in the group, which include CFOs; pre-construction, operations and IT personnel; and business development and marketing managers, participate in conference calls and face-to-face meetings as well.

Krusinski’s involvement in the group also enables the company to pave the way for clients who are considering building projects outside Illinois. Krusinski can suggest an appropriate Citadel Group contractor in another market and make the necessary introductions. This value-added service means clients will be connected with reputable, financially secure companies of Krusinski’s reputation and caliber.

Closer to home, Krusinski recently completed a Citadel Group project that involved renovation of the commercial kitchen at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, Ill.

To learn more about the Citadel Group, contact Jerry Krusinski at jerryk@krusinski.com.

Katie Osgood receives DIG award

Katie Osgood, administrative assistant at Krusinski Construction Company, received Krusinski’s Diversify, Improve, Grow (DIG) award for first quarter 2010. She was honored at a luncheon on Feb. 12.

Osgood’s excellent work ethic, enthusiastic attitude, accuracy and outstanding job organizing employee events led to her receiving the award. She previously received a DIG award in 2006.

Osgood joined Krusinski as a receptionist in 2005 and was soon promoted to administrative assistant. She is responsible for contracts, insurance tracking and administrative support for project managers, project engineers and the company’s chief financial officer.

To learn more about the DIG program, contact Gina Krusinski at ginak@krusinski.com.



Katie Osgood, administrative assistant at Krusinski Construction Company (right), accepts her DIG award from Krusinski CEO Joe Krusinski.

KRUSINSKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



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