

We as an industry have reached a tipping point when it comes to technology and its value across the construction workflow and beyond.

In years past, construction and survey firms have invested in a tool or technique to improve a task with great success. For instance, many now use a total station because it's far more efficient than using string and tape. But today's technology-immersed environment dictates a broader perspective that requires a look beyond task-oriented improvements.

The sheer quantity of data gathered by office and field solutions creates a challenge — and an opportunity to reshape productivity, efficiency, and what it means to be collaborative in the construction environment.

## FOUNDATIONAL SOLUTIONS

It might surprise some, but building information modeling (BIM) is more than a design and modeling tool in today's projects. BIM is fundamentally all about process and collaboration — and therefore a critical piece of digital workflows. It's a forum for how digital data will be exchanged and reviewed throughout the project lifecycle, from design

with a robotic total station to pinpoint locations from the 3D model and document existing conditions. Using the field



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### About the Author

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Bryan Williams is segment manager, field technology group, at [Trimble](#). Williams has nearly 30 years of international experience working in the construction industry as a site engineer, construction surveyor, project supervisor, and consultant. He has spent the last 15 years developing and marketing intelligent positioning solutions for the construction industry as part of Trimble Buildings.

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### About the Article

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