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Ebook

AP Buyer's Guide for Construction Finance Leaders





Why AP is a Strategic Lever in Construction

Construction finance leaders operate in one of the most complex environments of any industry. Projects are decentralized, timelines are compressed, and documentation flows constantly between job sites , vendors, and the back office. Every project generates invoices, delivery tickets, change orders, subcontract billings, and compliance documentation. These are often captured by teams who are rarely in the same place at the same time.

This creates a finance environment that depends on accuracy, speed, and visibility, yet traditional tools and manual processes make that difficult to sustain. 39% of construction professionals say new technology would improve efficiency and reduce rework, and 32% cite simplifying repetitive work as a top priority[1].

When Accounts Payable processes are outdated or disconnected, finance loses time and control. 49% of construction projects run over budget or schedule, and 28% of project time is spent on rework or issue resolution.[2 3] AP is not the only cause, but slow approvals, missing documentation, and inaccurate coding can amplify the problem by delaying visibility into committed costs, actuals, and payment status.

AP automation represents a critical shift for construction organizations. 32% say they need new technology to drive operational efficiency and cost control in today's economy[4]. However, for finance leaders, the benefit goes far beyond efficiency.

[1] Procore Technologies. How We Build Now: North America (2023), p. 20.
[2] Ibid., p. 9.
[3] Ibid., p. 11.
[4] Ibid., p. 15.

From Invoice Processing to Financial Control

For finance leadership, AP is not just a transactional function, but a strategic lever that directly impacts:

- Cash flow predictability
- Job cost accuracy
- Vendor trust and continuity
- Audit readiness and compliance
- Speed and confidence of the financial close
- The ability to scale and grow

When invoices are delayed, incomplete, or incorrectly coded, timely insights into a project's performance and financial exposure are lost. Modern AP automation enables teams to move from reactive assessments to proactive control supporting faster closes, more accurate accruals, fewer duplicate and overpayments, and tighter working capital management.

Many believe their ERP already has AP covered, but ERPs are built to record the transaction, not manage the day-to-day of invoices, approvals, exceptions, and reviews. AP automation accelerates invoice processing and payments upstream, removing manual bottlenecks, and getting transactions to the ERP faster and cleaner. The right platform doesn't just digitize paperwork, it should strengthen your ERP data. It enhances how information flows across systems, how decisions are made, and how confidently leaders can manage costs, risk, and growth.



Essential AP Automation Capabilities to Look For in an End-to-End Solution

1 Accessibility across field and finance teams

Construction work doesn't happen behind a desk, and AP processes shouldn't be confined to the office either. Project managers, superintendents, and field buyers are continually making purchase decisions, receiving materials, and validating complete work often far from the office.

When AP tools aren't mobile- accessible, approvals stall, receipts go missing, and data becomes outdated. These delays quickly add up, especially considering 43% of construction organizations say they would make better decisions with real-time access to project information[5].

Mobile-enabled AP automation allows invoices, documentation, and approvals to move at the same pace as construction operations to keep financial data current and actionable. Ensure the system supports end-to-end invoice review, approval, and document capture on mobile, tablet, and desktop, not just viewing.

Why this matters?

Faster approvals improve cash forecasting accuracy and prevent small delays from adding up into budget overruns.

What features to look for:

- Full invoice review and approval on mobile devices – not "view only" access
- Mobile capture of invoices, receipts, and delivery tickets from the field
- Real-time syncing with ERP so data stays current
- Intuitive, role-based interface
- Secure access control
- The ability to scale and grow

→ Learn more about mobile AP capabilities.

[5] Ibid., p. 23.

2 Visibility through complete, connected documentation

A multitude of projects happening at once generates an extraordinary volume ofneeded documentation . Every invoice may require delivery tickets, change orders, contracts, photos, lien waivers, proof-of-completion records and more. When these are scattered across emails, shared drives, or paper files, delays occur and exposure to risk rises.

Teams already spend 18% of project time searching for data or documentation[6], a hidden cost that affects productivity and eats up finance team's time. When vetting AP automation systems, unlimited attachments is a critical piece for visibility across projects
and departments.

Another key piece of visibility comes in with connection to your ERP. To allow visibility across systems and reduce duplicate data entry, ensure the AP automation solution you're seeking integrates seamlessly with your ERP. This is tied to ensuring that every transaction is fully supported, auditable, and easy to review across all steps of the AP process.

"We were spending too much time just trying to figure out where an invoice was in the process."

Adam Franklin, Director of Accounting and Finance, Qwikkit

Learn more about their journey to AP automation

Why this matters?

Complete documentation and easy document storage in one consolidated location ensures accuracy and strengthens audit readiness while connectivity to your ERP ensures records are up to date and everyone is looking at the same information.

What features to look for:

- Unlimited attachments without storage caps
- Support for all document types (invoices, POs, tickets, photos, etc)
- Centralized document access tied to invoices
- Easy review and searchability
- In-depth audit trail

→ Learn more about mobile AP capabilities.

[6] Ibid., p. 23.

3 Reduction of manual work with AI-powered data capture

Construction AP teams process a wide range of invoice and document formats. From scanned delivery tickets to complex subcontractor billings, decoding and manually entering data is slow, expensive, and error-prone.

AI-powered data capture eliminates this bottleneck and frees teams to work on more strategic tasks by extracting header and line-level data automatically regardless of vendor format. This is especially important when 37% of construction professionals say technology that reduces rework and prevents overhead would make their organizations more productive[7]. As AI and machine learning learn from processing more and more of your documents, accuracy and fill rate improves over time , increasing straight-through processing, accelerating approvals and reducing exceptions.



Why this matters?

Less manual data entry and intervention means faster closes and the ability to reposition finance teams to do better things with their time focusing on strategic initiatives rather than data entry.

What features to look for:

- Head and line-level data extraction
- Template-free capture
- Construction-specific field recognition
- Continuous AI and Machine Learning
- Multiple capture methods (email, scan, upload, drag and drop)

→ Learn more about the role of AI in accounting.

[7] Ibid., p. 20.

4 Adaptable workflows for real-world construction approvals

Construction approvals are rarely simple or the same across projects. Routing may depend on job, cost code, dollar threshold, vendor, and more. While these workflows can be incredibly complex, **over a quarter of construction firms still rely on paper or non-digital processes**[8], forcing teams into manual workarounds that extend cycle time and weaken controls.

Construction-ready AP automation must support configurable, rules-based workflows that reflect how projects actually operate without sacrificing consistency or oversight. The best AP automation solutions give you an unlimited number of rules and routes to fit your needs and never ask you to fit your processes into templated workflows.

Why this matters?

Customizable workflows strengthen internal controls while giving you the flexibility to have approval routes fit your processes. This allows businesses to scale without the administrative burden and mitigate risks with segregation of duties.

What features to look for:

- Rule-based routing
- Multi-level and parallel approvals
- Configurable exception and escalation paths
- Easy configuration without IT dependence
- Real-time status visibility and notification reminders

→ Learn more about invoice approval workflows.



[8] Ibid., p. 18.

5 Vendor relationships and payment control

Vendor relationships are mission-critical in construction. Delayed or incorrect payments strain relationships and slow projects. At the same time, finance teams must guard against overpayment, duplicates, mismatched vendor statements, and fraud.

The risk is real: 38% of owners in construction organizations report that invoiced amounts often don't match completed work[9]. Having the full purchase-to-pay process with automated validation, vendor authentication, anomaly detection, and secure payments all in one platform helps ensure vendors are paid on time while reducing the risk of inaccurate payments. Automated vendor statement reconciliation is another great component of AP automation to look for to increase controls and reduce manual work in the back office.

Why this matters?

Paying vendors on time and accurately is essential to keeping strong relationships and projects on time.

What features to look for:

- Vendor access for payment status
- Automated vendor statement reconciliation
- Integrated payment workflows
- Multiple payment options in one platform (ACH, virtual card, check)
- Vendor verification for payment information

[9] Ibid., p. 12.

Building a Scalable AP Foundation for Construction

Construction organizations are facing rising costs, tighter margins, and increasing expectations. Manual processes simply can't keep up with this pace.

A modern AP platform should help construction finance teams protect margin, maintain job cost integrity, and reduce risk, without slowing the field:

- Accessibility for field and office teams
- Visibility across invoices, documentation, and payments
- Adaptability for complex approval structures
- Seamless syncing with ERP and operational platforms
- Vendor verification and payment controls
- Built in intelligence to reduce risk, manual data entry, and rework

Together these capabilities transform AP from a back-office task into a strategic control point enabling construction finance leaders to protect margins, strengthen compliance, and scale with confidence.

AP shouldn't slow projects down. It should support them. Yooz gives construction teams the tools to automate workflows, eliminate manual tasks, and gain complete visibility from the field to the back office. **Take the next step and learn how Yooz can specifically help your organization build a more efficient, resilient financial operation.**



→ Learn how Lean Financial Operations™ with Yooz can transform how you do business.

Yooz is the most intelligent financial operations automation solution that fights waste, risk, fraud, and errors – all while driving growth and profitability. We deliver Lean Financial OperationsTM for the most ambitious companies on the planet, to even the most complex financial environments, so you can achieve the clarity you deserve to grow.

Our solutions powers financial operations automation with an unmatched combination of the most flexible workflow engine, the smartest real-time applied AI and data insight, the most intuitive user experience, and the most comprehensive end-to- end transparency – all protected by the most secure, AI-driven document fraud protection. The result is financial operations that are faster, simpler, deeper and safer. We're customer obsessed. We have 7,000+ customers globally and have processed 300m+ invoices.

Yooz North America is HQ'd in the Dallas, TX metropolitan area with global offices in Europe.

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