



2004  
OVERALL RATING  
★★★★★

**THE CPA**  
TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR

BY MARY GIRSCH-BOCK

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# MICS — Builder Information System

800-838-6427  
www.micsonline.com

Builder Information System (BIS) from Management Information Control Systems (MICS) is an integrated construction accounting software product. The Professional Edition cost for our prototypical company would be \$8,519.20. This price includes four hours of training, three hours of technical support and one year of Software Update Subscription.



## BUILDER INFORMATION SYSTEM

Order, Job Estimating, Union, Subcontract Control, Inventory, Document Manager, Document Link & Imaging, Password, Report Server, and a Report Writer. ★★★★★

### ▶ LEARNING CURVE

New in version 1134 is enhanced reporting capability, which includes the addition of a multi-format report export feature and the ability to e-mail reports in a variety of file formats. It also includes the ability to customize the toolbar for more efficient navigation.

BIS uses a standard Windows user interface, so system navigation is simple and straightforward. A toolbar at the top of the screen uses a drop-down menu for quick function access. BIS uses real-time processing, eliminating the use of batch processing. Vendors and customers can be entered on-the-fly for quick processing, and you can work in several different modules simultaneously. For those who prefer keyboard entry to mouse use, BIS uses a series of hotkeys and shortcuts to make data entry quick and easy. ★★★★★

### ▶ IMPORT/EXPORT/INTEGRATION

BIS is a completely integrated system, available in three different levels: Standard, Professional and Enterprise. You can choose the system that fits your needs now and upgrade when needed. You can import estimating data from your estimating software directly into BIS. Information can also be imported from Excel or other software programs that utilize ASCII or comma-delimited export files. ★★★★★

### ▶ SUPPORT & TRAINING

A series of support and training options is available, including Gold, Silver and Bronze levels. Each offers a spe-

cific amount of training and support hours per year. Support and training are also available separately. The company also offers a topical group class on subjects such as “closing the year” and “new employee training.” ★★★★★

### ▶ SECURITY

You can create a user profile for each person who will have access to BIS. To set up security, choose Administrator | Access. Here you can choose to allow full access, deny full access, or choose a variation by clicking on the various modules and then choosing the menu options accordingly. The Password module adds additional security, as well. ★★★★★

### ▶ CUSTOMIZATION & PRODUCTIVITY

The Document Link available in BIS allows you to link a variety of file types, such as images, schedules and spreadsheets, to system transactions. To make system navigation easier, you can create a custom toolbar and eliminate unnecessary functions, leaving only the ones you use. Actual job costs can be tracked and compared to earlier estimates, and the Production Expenses feature allows for indirect expenses to be applied to job costs. The Auto-Reversing feature creates reversing entries when changes are made to previously posted system transactions. And if you're worried about tracking those corrections, the Audit Trail function produces reports detailing all system transactions. If you are a multi-functioning company, with several divisions, you can keep all of your companies separate, yet run consolidated financial reports for an overall view of all divisions. ★★★★★

### ▶ REPORTING

Over 400 unique reports are available in BIS, but with all the variations, the number jumps to over 2,700. The Job List Report details all jobs, with options to include or exclude specific job types. Job Cost reports include Variance and Budget Cost Reports as well as Job Cost by cost code, by period or by status. Labor Distribution reports are available, as are the Over/Under Billing report Burden Analysis Report and the Job Cost Adjustment report. Job Billing History gives a good account of historical job activity. Equipment reports are also available, including an equipment list, equipment transaction and equipment usage reports. ★★★★★

### ▶ RELATIVE VALUE

BIS is an excellent software program that offers a user-friendly interface, comprehensive reporting options, and multi-level file access when you need it. Support and training hours could be expanded, but for Microsoft savvy individuals, they probably wouldn't need much training time anyway. ★★★★★

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