Field To Office:

Leverage Mobile Apps to Simplify Your Life

———

NEWFORMA KONEKT

Discover how Newforma Konekt's seamless mobile integration, instant logging, and offline capabilities, empower teams to expedite decision-making and minimize errors, ensuring efficient project management anytime, anywhere.

NEWFORMA KONEKT

Introduction

The construction industry has experienced a remarkable evolution in the past two decades, with a heightened emphasis on efficient communication and information flow. This evolution, however, has brought with it new challenges, particularly collaborating between the office and the field, where the seamless exchange of information between the two is paramount. In this guide, we explore how Newforma Konekt empowers firms to bridge the gap between the office and field by expediting information sharing through the power of mobile.

The Challenge

Cross-team collaboration in construction has quickly evolved over the last two decades; relying on quick communication and a seamless flow of information to keep projects on time and on budget.

Imagine a maze of miscommunication leading to delays, mistakes, and budget overruns. The old-school way of handling field data, with its time-consuming and error-prone manual processes, made it feel like trying to juggle while walking a tightrope.

Up until recently, you'd be subject to emails flying left and right, phone call after phone call and an endless line of follow-up meetings from the start and end of a successful project to ensure it stays on time and on budget.

The explosion in communication and the growing need for immediate action have created a bit of a breaking point in the AECO industry, as Architects, General Contractors, Engineers and even project owners look to get a handle on the health of their projects.

That kind of stress and pressure can be suffocating if you don't have the right tools.

This was made evermore clear after a recent study from Viewpoint found that 54% of contractors viewed the accurate logging and tracking of data in the field as a priority, while 59% admitted to still using manual process to collect and log data.

54% of contractors viewed the accurate logging and tracking of data in the field as a priority.

59% of contractors admitted to still using manual process to collect and log data.

Even for engineers, who often conduct on-site research and studies or diagnose construction or machinery problems, the need for digital information sharing and seamless mobility is just as relevant. Poor communication, incomplete reports and missing communications have been shown to result in costly reworks that could increase the cost of an average project by 5%.

It explains, in large part, why the AECO industry is rapidly modernizing through the adoption of information management platforms such as those brought to market by Newforma.

Our purpose-built workflow connectors set us apart, ensuring cohesion in AEC processes, not just data connections.

Data silos exist in the office and in the field. In this paper we'll explore how to break free from data silos. Newforma acts as the unifying force, becoming the system of record for your organization allowing you to mitigate risks by connecting scattered information, ensuring that if it exists, we can find it.

As one of the AECO industry's premier project information management platforms, Newforma Konekt unifies

conversations, project files, action items, and contractual workflows into a single cloud-hosted platform, while at the same time providing a history of the project from conception to completion and even years later should that become necessary.

In turn, the Newforma Konekt Mobile App connects to your Newforma Konekt account and provides instant notification on the status of issues and action items, RFIs, and submittals so you can make informed decisions in record time wherever you may be.

Sound too good to be true? **Not to worry!**

Let's take a deeper look at why mobile apps are quickly becoming the MVP of the AECO industry.

Instant Logging and Sharing of Information - Say Goodbye to the Email Maze

Imagine being on-site and sending off an email after having spotted an issue in a design or you have a question to send off; only for that email to get lost in the shuffle of the receivers' inbox.

It suddenly becomes a game of cat-and-mouse to try and find that email after days, if not weeks, without an answer; delaying the project and creating a potential rift between stakeholder groups. The proper logging, sharing and resolution of information about an RFI, submittal or issue can be a costly consequence of communication issues and action items between stakeholder groups; which has pushed over 81% of AECO professionals to seek out digital means, such as information management platforms, to rectify the situation.

81% of AECO professionals to seek out digital means

It's no wonder why a recent study produced by the Statista Research Department found that reporting/logging and the uploading of accompanying media were the two biggest uses for mobile applications on the field.

With a proper information management platform, which leverage mobile capabilities that fits your day-to-day needs for instant communication and seamless mobility, those issues quickly dissipate.

You can also add incoming emails directly into your project record from your mobile Outlook app, thanks to Newforma Konekt's Outlook Add-In.
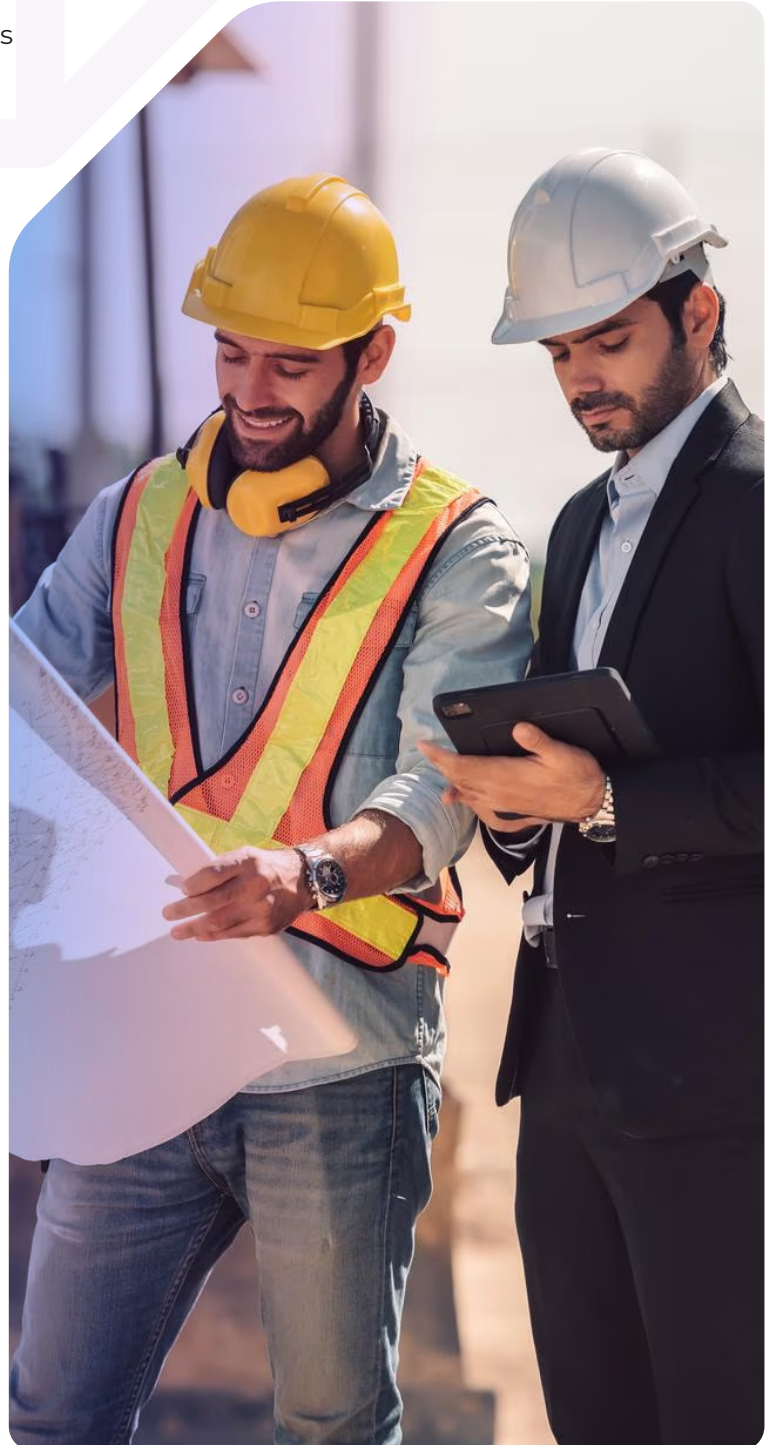
Newforma Konekt extracts key information from the email, then auto-populates and logs

a new submittal or RFI in Newforma Konekt, so that your team or extended stakeholders can get started on resolving it.

There's no need to go through the trouble of having to download the submittal or RFI document and re-enter all the information into a separate form before it can be processed. You can do it all within a few taps of your phone and continue along without skipping a beat.

Imagine how much time you could save if you log as you go: the otherwise lost hours travelling between the job site and the office are now reincorporated in your workflow.

Immediate Action on RFI & Submittals - Save Over 10 minutes Per Action

Being able to quickly file and track an RFI, submittal or issue could be the difference between keeping a project running smoothly, but speed is only half the battle.

Just think, you can be on-site at the project waiting for crucial information before pushing ahead or off-site working on the next project, and you turn on your handy Newforma

Konekt app; noticing a new request has come in.

For example, Newforma Konekt Mobile allows you to effectively log an RFI immediately with just a few taps on your phone.

By using your phone's camera, you can snap a picture of the item of interest and attach it to the RFI. Furthermore, there's no need to take notes and transcribe them back at the office: you can log your inquiries during your inspection.

Rather than having to wait to get back to your desk or go pop open your laptop to go over all the project details, you can consult

all your project emails and respond to the RFI or submittal on the spot.

With just a few clicks, you can include all the necessary information, visuals and contacts and send off your official response within seconds: saving you over 10 minutes per action.

The response is logged within the project record and redirected to the relevant stakeholders, ensuring seamless collaboration, and avoiding costly human errors.

Master Aggregator of Information

A recent study from JBKnowledge ConTech found that, although 92% of stakeholders involved in a construction project use their smartphones on a daily basis, 34% of them had multiple applications that couldn't integrate data between apps.

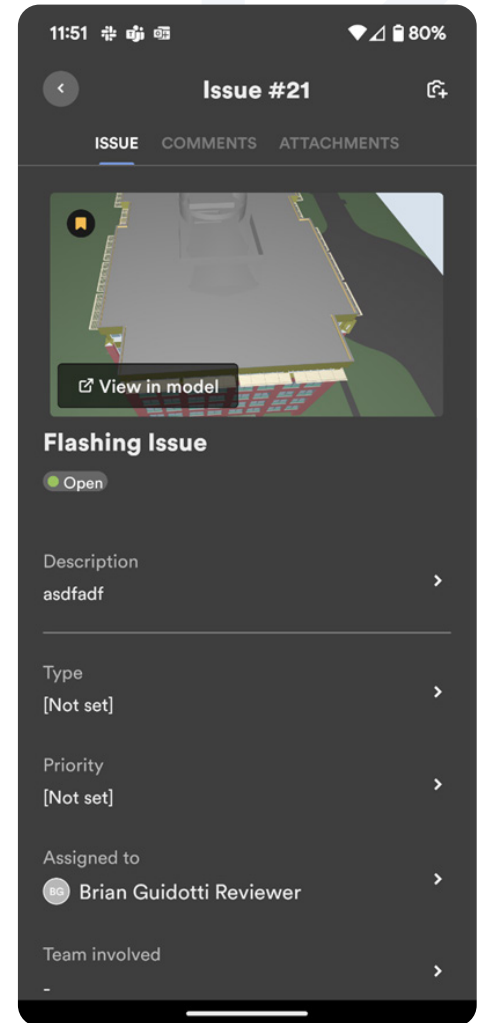And the inefficiencies are boundless for all stakeholders.

Contractors routinely use 3-5 applications to effectively send off and record an RFI or submittal. You'll have engineers spending hours combing through countless emails to try and find references to a specific decision, and architects having to spend hours re-transcribing RFIs and submittals between platforms,

All of that tedious work can be solved by having one source of truth that speaks to all parties at once.

Leveraging platforms that can't speak to each other not only increases the chances of human error when transcribing the information; but could also lead to potential delays due to lost or siloed information.

Which means that seamless information sharing and application integration have quickly become a necessity to connect the office to the field. Not only is it a major time-saver for all teams, it also instantly improves visibility and project collaboration; with a single source to access the correct and latest information regardless of what the source or where it lives.

Here's a quick example.

Some stakeholders in the industry use construction management applications such as Procore to manage their construction administration workflows.

If a general contractor is using a system like Procore to generate submittals and RFIs, while the architect or engineers use a different system for the review and response process, it can create some friction.

Newforma Konekt's Procore connector allows RFIs and submittals from Procore to automatically flow into Newforma Konekt, simplifying the review process by removing the need to manually re-create those items in Newforma Konekt and allowing those without access to Procore to stay on the same page.

But, with the Newforma mobile app, you can streamline this entire process on the go. With the app, when the design team completes their review of the contractor's RFI, the RFI is then returned directly to the Procore user, allowing construction and design teams to work where they are most comfortable.

The mobile app's flexibility means you don't need to rush back to the office to transcribe information from Procore into your preferred platform; the data transition is seamless and instant no matter where you are.

Thanks to Newforma Konekt's Procore connector, users save 10-15 minutes every time they send or respond to an RFI or submittal with no sacrifice to security, project integrity, or protocol. All this can be done directly from your phone, ensuring you can stay productive wherever you are.

Full Project Clarity on the Go

Nothing is more stressful than being in a crisis and having to comb over thousands of emails to find the one piece of information that would resolve everything, while the clock ticks away.
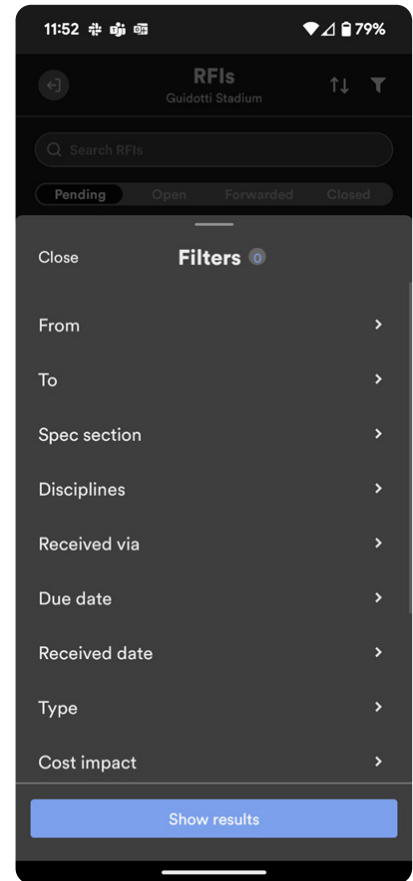
And this can happen whether you're asked to find that information during an active project, or even years after the project's end.

Research from the Project Management Institute found that 56% of construction projects are subject to needless risk due to ineffective communication levels and lost

or misplaced information.

Even with other digital tools, users would have to log into the web app on the mobile browser to find the project emails; increasingly the likelihood of accidentally scrolling over your intended email or – if you were lucky to find it – waste countless hours in the process.

With the Email Activity Center inside Newforma Konekt, project emails can be available and can be accessed within seconds. Users can view the emails filed for a given project directly from the mobile app.
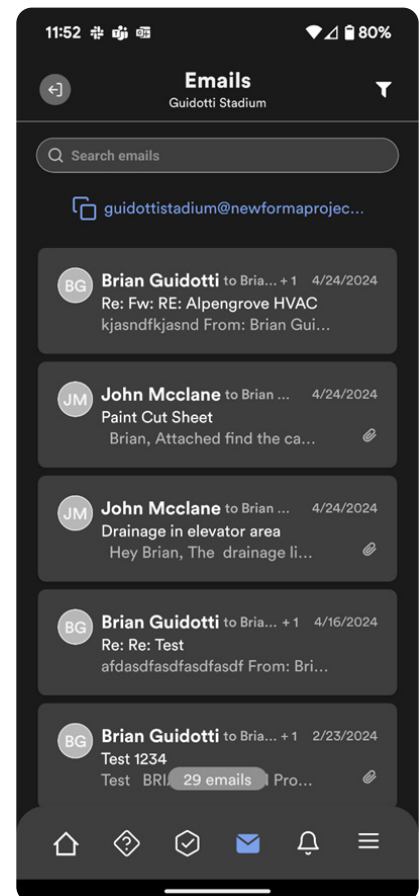
You can also count on robust search & filter options to quickly find the email that you're looking for, looking through project email chains or stakeholder exchanges to uncover that minute information you were looking for.

Don't remember the name of the email or who was part of it? No problem. With Newforma Konekt, you don't have to rely on keywords to find the information you need, Newforma Konekt automatically allows you to search through project email chains by subject, body content, and even attachments; getting you to the information you need without

the manual work of logging keywords to each item.

If the situation requires some visual aid, no worries. All attachments on a specific email can be downloaded to view later or previewed with the compatible app of your choice.

Having a full view and quick access to your project communications puts you and your team in the driver's seat; allowing you to get the information you need precisely when you need it.

Offline Issue Management

Newforma Konekt Mobile is designed for reliability and convenience, even when job-site access to the internet is spotty or non-existent. Its offline functionality is invaluable when you're in a location with weak or no internet connectivity. This way, you can continue to track action items and issue updates, and as soon as you're back in a Wi-Fi or cellular network area, everything syncs automatically.

Consider this scenario: You're on a construction site, and you need to address an urgent issue, but you're in a basement or an underground parking lot where there's no internet connection. In the past, you'd have to jot down notes, take pictures, and hope to remember all the details to update your report when you got back to the office or found a stable connection.

With Newforma Konekt Mobile's offline mode, you don't have to worry about that anymore. You can create a new issue, add comments, and attach photos or other files, even without internet access. If you've downloaded project data beforehand, you can also edit existing issues. This way, you can keep your work moving without interruption.

When your internet connection is restored, all offline-created issues will automatically sync with Newforma Konekt, ensuring that nothing is lost. The ability to save drafts locally allows you to confirm information before officially publishing the issue. You can also create "canned" responses to common problems you might encounter on site visits, allowing you to quickly issue updates or solutions without starting from scratch each time.

By providing these offline features, Newforma Konekt ensures that architects, engineers, and general contractors can keep their project information up to date, regardless of their location or internet access. It simplifies project management and ensures that critical project data is never out of reach, keeping you efficient and effective on the job site.

Optimizing Workflows: Anytime, Anywhere

The AECO industry is proactively looking for new ways to modernize the way they collaborate and to reduce human error and redundant workflows; be it at the office or on the go.

It's no wonder 64% of **NBS' Digital Construction** respondents had already begun modernizing their workflow processes through the help of new technologies; the proof is in the pudding.

However, as the industry continues to modernize its workflows, users want that change to adapt to our everyday lives; combining the productivity of digital platforms with the flexibility and mobility required of today's workforce.
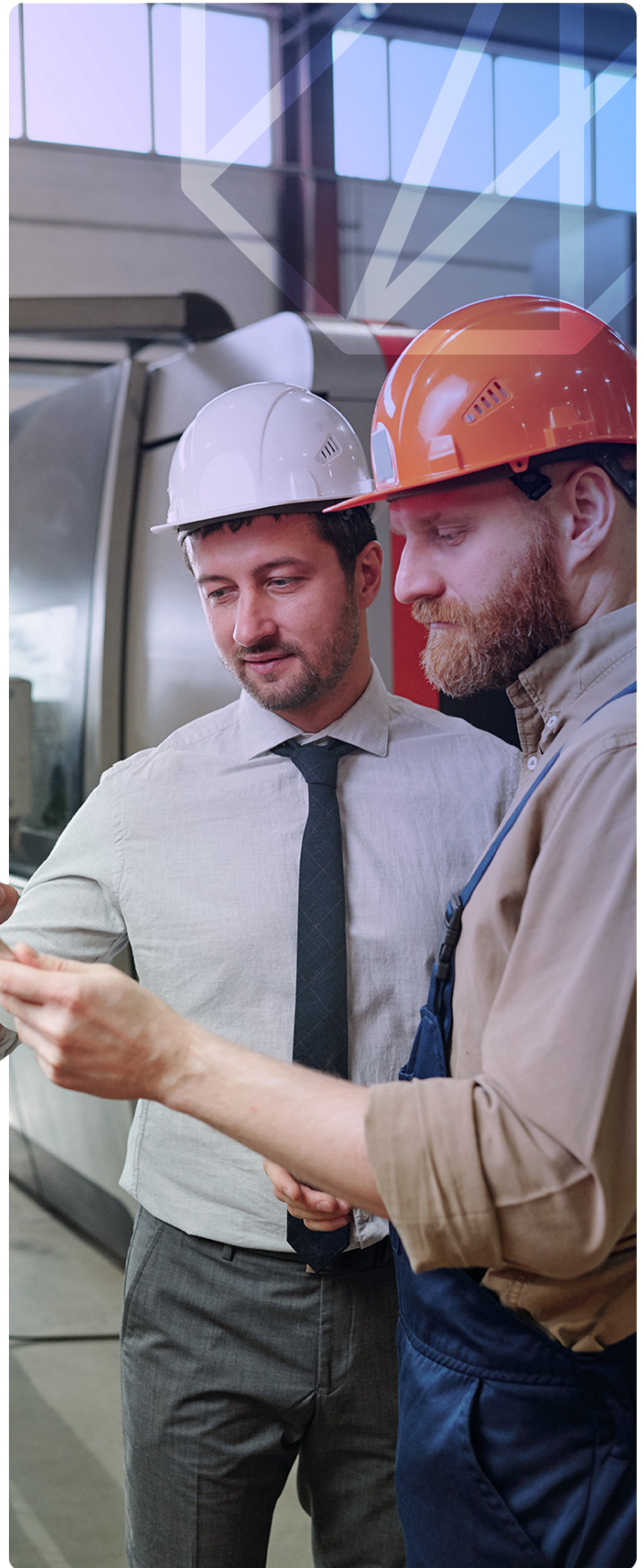That's why over 89% of respondents in **a recent JBKnowlege study** deemed mobile integrations and capabilities as an important influencing factor when new purchasing software; as it's quickly becoming a necessity.

With new digital platforms like Newforma Konekt, firms have saved precious time and millions of dollars through improved productivity and reduced human error brought on by improvements in mobile functionalities.

Be it through the logging of information, on-the-fly responses, centralized communication centers, or the flexibility of offline features, Newforma Konekt empowers users to make an impact, wherever they may be.

With the added convenience and peace of mind, Newforma puts you back in the driver's seat; the question is simple: "Where do you want to go?"

To learn more about how Newforma Konekt can eliminate communication bottlenecks and expidite the sharing of information between field and office, click here to set up a demo today!

Why Newforma Konekt stands out

Seamless Office-to-Field Communication:

Benefit: Enhances collaboration by facilitating real-time communication between the office and the field.

Newforma Konekt acts as a central hub for conversations, project files, and workflows, fostering immediate and efficient communication.

Instant Logging and Sharing of Field Information:

Benefit: Accelerates decision-making by enabling instant data capture and sharing in the field.

Newforma Konekt Mobile allows for immediate actionon RFIs and submittals, eliminating delays caused by manual processes and limited access options

Integrated Data Flow Between Office and Field:

Benefit: Minimizes errors and delays by seamlessly integrating data between office and field applications.

Newforma Konekt's Procore connector ensures a smooth flow of RFIs and submittals, eliminating the need for redundant data entry.

Efficient Offline Issue Management:

Benefit: Ensures productivity in areas with limited or no internet connectivity.

Newforma Konekt Mobile's offline functionality allows users to track and update issues in the field, with automatic synchronization upon reconnection.

Optimized Workflows for Field Productivity:

Benefit: Empowers teams with tools that adapt to their workflow, reducing human error and enhancing productivity.

Newforma Konekt aligns with the industry's goal of modernizing workflows, providing a flexible and mobile-friendly solution.