

Establishing and Developing a Computer Application (Software) For Repetitive Detailed Cost Estimation Of Construction Projects

> Prepared by Nabil Mustafa Salameh Al-Fayyoumi Y01172

> > Supervised by Prof. Dr. Rami A. Maher

This thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master Degree in Engineering Projects Management

> Faculty of Engineering Isra University

> > August 2017

### AKNOWLEDGMENT

Greatest thanks and appreciation to my supervisor Professor Dr. Rami A. Maher for his intensive follow up, valuable reviews and continuous support of my thesis and to Professor Dr. Ibrahim Mohammad Al Hadithi for his encouragement and further review and evaluation.

Furthermore I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the discussion committee for their smooth and deep insightful dialogue during thesis presentation in addition to their full awareness of the importance of thesis content.

Lastly I also present my thanks to the Jordanian Contractors Association JCA who facilitates my thesis by arranging the invitation To Whom It May Concern from contractors and engineers to present and explain the RDC Estimate Software, with the completion of data collection on the relevant questionnaire. To my colleagues and friends who gave me their full support and encouragement in my research.

# ISRA UNIVERSITY

# **AUTHORIZATION FORM**

I, Nabil Mustafa Al-Fayyoumi, authorize Isra University to provide copies of my Thesis to libraries, establishments and individuals upon request, according to Isra University regulations.

Signature:

tabt

Date: 13 Aug. 2017

# **COMMITTEE DECISION**

This Thesis (Establishing and Developing a Computer application "Software" For Repetitive Detailed Cost Estimation of Construction Projects) was successfully defended and approved on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Discussion Committee	signature
Prof. Dr. Rami A. Maher	
Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hiyassat	
Dr. Karim Al Jeboury	

# DEDICATION

TO THE SOUL OF MY PARENTS TO MY WONDERFUL WIFE TO MY GREAT FAMILY WITH LOVE

#### Developing and Establishing Computer Application (Software) for Repetitive Detailed Cost Estimation to Construction Projects

By Nabil Mustafa Al-Fayyoumi Supervised by Prof. Dr. Rami A. Maher

#### ABSTRACT

Many main contractors and subcontractors face a lot of problems due to a very limited time given by the owners or the consultants of the construction projects at the bidding competition stage, which usually ranges between 30 - 45 days,. They make several deviations and mistakes related to this limited time to submit their best technical and financial proposals for the construction execution. For many reasons, several cases are recorded for a huge difference between the first bid value and last bid value in most of construction projects which in some cases ranges between (-15%) to (+50%) of the accepted bid value. Therefore, there is a big need to establish a computerized management tool for repetitive process of cost estimation method to the Contracting Sector and to be as a guide and judgment for the Consulting Sector who is directly involved in the analysis and decision making for the awarding process.

In this thesis, the contribution will be based on the creation of templates, forms and tables for the integrated cost estimation methodology and to be as a solid basis for any contracting organization to highlight and build up its own strategy, principles, components, tactics, involved teams, tools, scenarios and calculations to reach and apply an accepted bid value. This study will also be joined by establishing and developing a computer application (software) made specifically for this process for ease reference and use by all contracting companies to ease and facilitate their works in the estimation process which can be used also at a later stage during execution process for progress of works, reporting and forecasting.

The computer software application will mainly contain three major categories; the first part will be especially for the Estimation Process, the second will be for Wok Progress and finally the third will be for Project Forecasting.

VI

No.	Title	Page
	Thesis Title	Ι
	Acknowledgment	Π
	Authorization Form	III
	Committee Decision	IV
	Dedication	V
	Abstract	VI
	List of Contents	VII
	List of Tables	Х
	List of Figures	XII
	List of Symbols	XV
	Appendices	XVII
CHAPTER ONE:	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Introduction	2
1.2	Problem Statement	3
1.3	Research title	5
1.4	Research Hypotheses	6
1.5	Research Main Objectives	7
1.6	Scope of Research	9
CHAPTER TWO:	LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.1	Introduction	11
2.2	Types of Construction Agreements	12
2.3	Types of Construction Organizations	14
2.4	Classification of Construction Projects	19
2.5	Techniques & Methods of Cost Estimate	21
2.5.1	Classification as per Department of Energy Guide on Estimating	22
2.5.2	Classification as per Project Management for Construction	23
2.5.3	Classification as per Business Dictionary (2013)	24

### LIST OF CONTENTS

2.6		Phases of Cost Estimate	25
2.7		Accuracy of Estimation	26
2.8		Direct Cost Components & Factors Affecting Estimation Process	26
2.9		Previous Related Studies in Cost Estimation Field	29
2.10		Research Gap	35
СНАРТЕ	R THREE:	TOWARD ENHANCING COST ESTIMATION PROCESS	36
3.1		Introduction	37
3.2		Pilot Survey	37
3.3		Research Methods	38
3.4		Establishing and Developing a Proposed Software	39
3.5		Theory of Detailed Cost Estimate (RDC)	42
	3.5.1	Definitions	43
	3.5.2	Price and cost Categories	43
	3.5.3	Linear Model and Formulas for Cost Estimate Process	45
	3.5.4	Model and Formulas for Earned Value (work progress).	48
	3.5.5	Model and Formulas for Project Status (Forecasting)	49
СНАРТЕ	R FOUR:	SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT: DATA ENTRY & RESULTS	57
4.1		Introduction	58
4.2		Pilot Survey Results	58
4.3		Formation of Cost Estimation Process Templates	60
4.4		Formation of Work Progress Templates	72
4.5		Formation of Project Forecasting Templates	75
4.6		Software Flow Chart	78
4.7		Software Windows	85
	4.7.1	Cost Estimation Process	85
	4.7.1.1	Project Data Entry	85
	4.7.1.2	Direct Cost Analysis	92
	4.7.1.3	Indirect Cost Analysis	101
	4.7.1.4	Overhead Cost Analysis	105
	4.7.1.5	Profit Amount	106

	4.7.2	Work Progress Stage	109
	4.7.2.1	Original BOQs Progress	109
	4.7.2.2	Variation Orders Progress	111
	4.7.2.3	Approved and Delivered Materials on Project Site	114
	4.7.2.4	Client Subcontractors Fees	115
	4.7.2.5	Other Payable Amounts	117
	4.7.2.6	Create Payment	118
	4.7.3	Project Status Stage	119
	4.7.3.1	Project Time And Cost Scheduling	119
	4.7.3.2	Project Performance	122
	4.7.3.3	Project Forecasting	124
4.8		Software Validation and Results Verification	125
4.9		Networking Enabled Software	128
CHAPTE	R FIVE:	STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS	130
5.1		Introduction	131
5.2		Research Population	131
5.3		Research Sample	132
5.4		Research Statistical Tool	132
5.5		Validation and Certification of the Questionnaire	134
5.6		Data Collection	134
5.7		Data Tabulation	135
5.8		Statistical Methodology	138
5.9		Statistical Calculations	139
5.10		Statistical Conclusion	145
CHAPTE	R SIX:	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	146
6.1		Conclusions	147
6.2		Recommendations	148
		REFERENCES	154
		APPNDICES	158

### LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page
Table 2.1	Table of estimation classes & percentages of estimation accuracy	26
Table 3.1	All cases of project statuses	54
Table 4.1	Contents of standardized BOQ	62
Table 4.2	Subcontractor Cost Category Template Detail	63
Table 4.3	Material Cost Category Template Detail	63
Table 4.4	Labor Cost Category Detail	64
Table 4.5	Default Calculator - Basic data input by contracting company.	64
Table 4.6	Hourly Rate of day works for individuals	65
Table 4.7	Hourly, daily and unit rate of teams in a construction project	66
Table 4.8	Equipment Cost Category Template Detail	66
Table 4.9	Indirect main and sub-main cost categories	67
<b>Table 4.10</b>	Type I measurement table	69
Table 4.11	Type II measurement table	69
<b>Table 4.12</b>	Type III measurement table	69
<b>Table 4.13</b>	Type IV measurement table	70
Table 4.14	Type V measurement table	70
<b>Table 4.15</b>	Template of work progress to get the values	73
<b>Table 4.16</b>	Details of Variation orders.	74
<b>Table 4.17</b>	Approved and Delivered Materials on Project Site	74
<b>Table 4.18</b>	The percentage of overhead & profit on client subcontracts	75
<b>Table 4.19</b>	Ideal and Actual S-Curve percentages and Values	76
<b>Table 4.20</b>	Project Performance Window	77
<b>Table 4.21</b>	Project Forecasting Window	77
Table 5.1	Number of contractors in Jordan as per JCA 2016 annual report	131
Table 5.2	Likert Scale	132
Table 5.3 A	Domain One - Save time and efforts	136
Table 5.3 B	Domain Two – Providing miscellaneous cost categories	136
Table 5.3 C	Domain Three – Documentation and cost control	137
Table 5.3 D	Domain Four – Multifunctional purposes	137
Table 5.3 E	Domain Five- Providing reports and charts	137
Table 5.3 F	Domain Six-Software is recommended to be used	138

Table 5.4	Values of Cronbach's alpha	141
Table 5.5 A	Statistical measures for items of domain one	142
Table 5.5 B	Statistical measures for items of domain two	142
Table 5.5 C	Statistical measures for items of domain three	143
Table 5.5 D	Statistical measures for items of domain four	143
Table 5.5 E	Statistical measures for items of domain five	143
Table 5.5 F	Statistical measures for items of domain six	144
Table 5.6	Statistical measures for each main domain	144

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page
Figure 1.1	Main objectives of RDC estimate software.	8
Figure 2.1	The main constraints of project management	11
Figure 2.2	Types of construction contracts	14
Figure 2.3	Main structure of owner forces organization	15
Figure 2.4	Main structure of owner managed organization	16
Figure 2.5	Main structure of general contractor	16
Figure 2.6	Main structure of design/build organization	17
Figure 2.7	Main structure of construction management organization	17
Figure 2.8	Examples for trade contractors	18
Figure 2.9	Project documentation in parallel with project cost estimation.	25
Figure 3.1	Sequence of work for proposed software	40
Figure 3.2	Detailed tasks of the proposed software	41
Figure 3.3	EVM Measures & Indices	50
Figure 3.4	The time $-\cos t$ curve (S - curve)	51
Figure 3.5	The basic SPI and CPI Relations	54
Figure 4.1	General software flow chart	78
Figure 4.1A	Estimation Process – First Stage Flow Chart	80
Figure 4.1B	Work Progress – Second Stage Flow Chart	82
Figure 4.1C	Project Status – Third Stage Flow Chart	84
Figure 4.2A	Software Icon	85
Figure 4.2B	First window of the software	86
Figure 4.3	Entity Window	86
Figure 4.4	New entity window	87
Figure 4.5	Profit policy window	88
Figure 4.6	Add profit policy window	88
Figure 4.7	Projects window	89
Figure 4.8	New project window	89
Figure 4.9	Open project window	90
Figure 4.10	Create bill window	91
Figure 4.11	Bill BOQ window	91
Figure 4.12	Add BOQ item window	92

Figure 4.13	Direct cost analysis window	92
Figure 4.13	Subcontractor item direct cost window	93
Figure 4.14	Material item direct cost window	93 94
6	Labor item direct cost window	94 95
Figure 4.16		
Figure 4.17	Equipment item direct cost window	96 07
Figure 4.18	Labor calculator window	97 22
Figure 4.19	Labor calculator setup window	98
Figure 4.20	Select report for work item window	98
Figure 4.21	Select report for a project bill window	99
Figure 4.22	Select report type to show window	100
Figure 4.23	Indirect main cost categories window	101
Figure 4.24	Indirect sub-main cost categories window	102
Figure 4.25	Indirect sub-main cost categories window	103
Figure 4.26	Indirect item cost window	104
Figure 4.27	Indirect ratios correction	105
Figure 4.28	Overhead cost window	106
Figure 4.29	Profit selection window	107
Figure 4.30	Indirect cost filter window	108
Figure 4.31	Project chart window	108
Figure 4.32	Chart selection window	109
Figure 4.33	Work progress stage window	110
Figure 4.34	Update progress window	111
Figure 4.35	Update VOs progress window	112
Figure 4.36	Add VO window	113
Figure 4.37	Add VO item windows	113
Figure 4.38	Delivered materials window	114
Figure 4.39	Add delivered material window	115
Figure 4.40	Client subcontractor fees window	116
Figure 4.41	Add subcontractor works window	116
Figure 4.42	Other payable amounts window	117
Figure 4.43	Add other payable amounts window	117
Figure 4.44	Payments window	118
Figure 4.45	Create payment window	118
Figure 4.46	Select payment report window	119
Figure 4.47	Project status window	120

Figure 4.48	Scheduling of project window	121
Figure 4.49	Budgeted cost for work schedule window	121
Figure 4.50	Project time adjustment window	122
Figure 4.51	Performance window	123
Figure 4.52	Actual cost of work performed window	123
Figure 4.53	Forecasting window	124
Figure 4.54	Private Villa construction project general layout.	125
Figure 4.55	Elevation of commercial building	126
Figure 4.56	Direct cost distribution of the project	127
Figure 4.57	Time-Cost chart of the project	127
Figure 4.58	Estimation system components and deployment diagram	129
Figure 5.1	Normal distribution curve	139
Figure 6.1	The announcement in Al-Rai newspaper for training courses	149
Figure 6.2	The announcement in Al-Rai newspaper for training courses	150
Figure 6.3	Foundation of Training Center at JCA	151

# LIST OF SYMBOLS

Symbol	Definition
BOQ	Bill of Quantity
RDC	Repetitive Detailed Cost
JCA	Jordanian Contractors Association
MPWH	Ministry of Public Works and Housing
PPP	Private Public Partnership
BOT	Built Operate Transfer
SQL	Structured Query Language
C#	C-Sharp Language
V	Total project value (Selling Price)
Q	Quantity of item a
UR <sub>a</sub>	Unit rate of item a
а	Activity or work item
D	Total Direct Cost of project activities
Ι	Total Indirect Cost of project
0	Total Over-Head Cost
Р	Total Profit Amount for nominated project
S	Total sub-contractors supply & apply cost
М	Total material cost of project activities
L	Total labor cost of project activities
E	Total equipment cost of project activities
S	Total sub-contractors supply & apply cost
$i_a$	Category cost of indirect cost
$d_a$	Direct cost of activity (a)
$I_a$	Indirect cost of activity (a)
$O_a$	Overhead Cost of activity (a)
$d_a$	Direct cost of activity (a)
$P_a$	Profit amount of activity (a)
$S_a$	Subcontractor S/A cost of activity $(a)$
$M_a$	Material cost of activity (a)
$L_a$	Labor cost of activity (a)
$E_a$	Equipment cost of activity (a)
$EV_a$	Earned value for executed work item or activity (a)

% C	Percentage completed
$EV_{e}$	Value of executed extra works of work item or activity (e)
$EV_i$	Periodical earned value (usually monthly)
EVc	Earned vale at completion = Budgeted Cost of Work Performed BCWP
CV	Cost variance
% <i>CV</i>	Percentage of cost variance
AC	Actual cost = Actual Cost of Work Performed ACWP
CPI	Cost performance index
SC	Schedule cost = Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled BCWS
t	Percentage of cumulative time
SV	Schedule variance
% SV	Percentage of schedule variance
SPI	Schedule performance index
PC	The percentage of project completion
EAC	Estimated at completion
VAC	Variance at completion
TAC	Time at completion
Т	Original project time
SCI	Schedule cost index
TCPI	To complete performance index
Сα	Cronbach alpha value
Κ	Number of items in each domain
r	The average correlation
$\bar{X}$	The item or domain mean
i	The scale points
f	The frequency of observed scale
X	Item scale point
n	Sample size
S	Standard deviation
Zc	Calculated critical value
μ	Population mean
α	Significant level

# LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix		Title
Α		Pilot Survey
	A1	Interview Questionnaire Form
	A2	Interview Responses
	A3	Interview Summary
В		Tenders Financial Offers
С		JCA Official Letters
D		Case Study Reports
	D1	Documents for Cost Estimate Phase
	D2	Documents for Work Progress Phase
	D3	Documents for Project Forecasting Phase
Ε		Statistical Analysis
	E1	Questionnaire Form
	E2	Questionnaire Responses
	E3	Questionnaire Analysis
	E4	Presentation Audience
	E5	News About the Software
F		Certification Jury
	F1	List of Jury
	F2	Approved Questionnaire Form from Dr. Zakeria Al dori
	F3	Approved Questionnaire Form from Dr. Ibrahim Al Hadithi
	F4	Approved Questionnaire Form from Dr. Mohammed Hiyassat
	F5	Approved Questionnaire Form from Dr. Rami Al Hadithi
G		Questionnaire Model
	G1	Request Letter for certification
	G2	Questionnaire Domains
	G3	Final Approved Questionnaire Form