

Will AI Take Your Construction Job? Only if You Want it To.

Written by: Chris Wood, Writer, Construction Dive

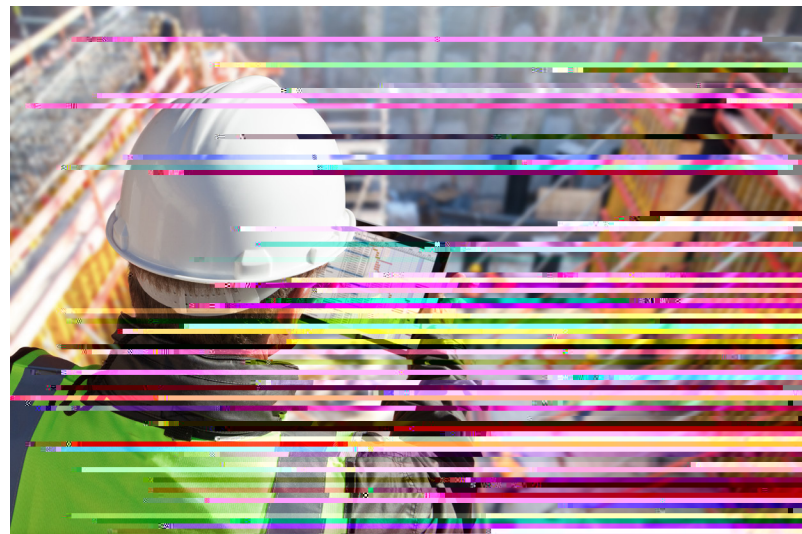
Henning Roedel thinks questions about artificial intelligence (AI) taking away jobs in construction miss the point.

“We don’t think about how to reduce our staff size, because we have enough backlog and work ahead of us that we need more people,” said Roedel, Robotics Lead for the Innovation Team at Redwood City, California-based DPR Construction. “You need to flip the displacement question around because we currently don’t have enough people in our industry to meet the construction needs of society as it is.”

The numbers back Roedel up. In March, even when construction layoffs reached their highest level since the start of the pandemic, there were still more than 341,000 unfilled jobs in the sector.

For Roedel, given the endemic labor crisis that’s been plaguing the industry for years, the early deployment of AI and robotic solutions into construction is evidence of job displacement and abandonment that has already occurred and threatened the industry’s ability to keep pace with demand.

“AI and robotics are solutions to that growing crisis of not being able to build enough homes, offices, and roads to keep people living healthy lives,” said Roedel, whose firm has been using both to help workers get more done. “The tools that are coming out are amplifying the lives of both our field and corporate office staffs, who can leverage ChatGPT and other tools to save mental time and productively move onto the next task that much earlier.”



No Drilling Through Rebar

For example, in addition to using ChatGPT for crafting email correspondence and project executive summaries based on bullet points and prompts, DPR is unleashing AI in the field.

This includes tools that incorporate computer vision, which derives meaningful information from images that crews can act on, an increased focus on jobsites. It also means AI-powered reality capture and analysis from the likes of the Hillti JAIBOT semi-automated drill.

When drilling into concrete slabs and ceilings for MEP inserts, the JAIBOT can detect obstructions, determine what they are and decide whether to continue drilling. AI can also measure the torque of the drill and determine if it hits rebar or any substrate other than concrete.



Author

Chris Woods is a writer for Construction Dive.

Article

Republished from [Construction Dive](#) online. Construction Dive is a leading industry publication operated by Industry Dive. Their business journalists spark ideas and shape agendas for 10+ million decision makers in the most competitive industries. The daily email newsletter and website cover topics such as commercial building, residential building, green building, design, deals, regulations, and more.

Any views and opinions expressed in this article may or may not reflect the views and opinions of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA). By publishing this piece, CMAA is not expressing endorsement of the individual, the article, or their association, organization, or company.