

Why Speed and Accuracy in Electrical Takeoffs Are Critical to Winning More Bids

The Hidden Cost of Manual Takeoffs

In the bidding lifecycle, speed matters. The faster you can submit a clean, accurate, and competitive bid, the better your chances of winning the job. But for electrical estimators, speed is hard to come by. You're juggling dense plan sets, tracing hundreds of symbols by hand, and digging through specs spread across dozens of sheets.

With circuits, panels, lighting, and scope notes layered across the plans, even one small oversight can derail the entire bid. Manual takeoffs not only slow you down, they make it challenging to stay accurate under pressure.

- **60% of awarded bids** go to the first responders
- **Manual takeoffs eat up 30-50%** of your bid cycle.
- Rushed bids = Missed details = Costly revisions

Manual Takeoffs Are Slowing You Down



Lost Bandwidth:

Next to no time for value engineering or strengthening coordination with GCs and vendors.



Missed Opportunities:

Manual takeoffs limit bidding capacity, resulting in fewer chances to win work.



Time Sink:

Up to 50% of your bid cycle is spent manually measuring, leaving little time for strategic tasks.

For Electrical Subcontractors

Challenges

- **Delays in bid turnaround time:** By the time you've fine-tuned your proposal, someone else has already won the job.
- **Manual and repetitive tasks:** Manual takeoff fatigue can lead to oversights and errors, compromising the accuracy and competitiveness of bids.
- **Rework due to addenda:** Frequent addenda and plan changes can mean redoing the work from scratch, or spending double the time on estimates.
- **Poor win rate:** When takeoffs eat up your time, there's no bandwidth for risk assessments or sharpening your bid, hurting your win rate.

Solutions

- **AI-based takeoffs:** Let AI handle the heavy lifting. It reads your drawings, pulls quantities, and captures specs, freeing you up to focus on pricing, strategy, and winning more jobs.
- **Auto-detect addenda changes:** AI detects plan revisions, keyed notes, and specs, saving you hours and even days on reworking takeoffs.
- **Get time back:** With automated takeoffs freeing up your time, you can focus on other high-impact activities like fine-tuning bids, stakeholder coordination, and sending out competitive proposals.
- **Increase bid capacity:** Bid up to 2x more jobs, AI can handle multiple takeoffs in parallel.

For Suppliers/Distributors

Challenges

- **Unreliable quantity information:** Errors in takeoffs mean over- or under-supplying materials, which is costly for everyone.
- **Struggling to scale:** More bids should not mean more manpower. When bid requests pile up, it eats into hiring costs, resources, and efficiency.
- **Slow quote turnaround time:** Waiting on takeoffs delays your quote responses, hurting your competitiveness.
- **Low bid volume:** Struggling to manage subcontractor requests results in missed opportunities and lost business.

Solutions

- **Automate electrical takeoffs with AI:** From fixtures to feeders, get accurate counts quickly, without any manual effort.
- **Accelerate bid responses:** Faster electrical takeoffs free up time to focus on coordination and strategic relationship-building, enhancing your bid capacity.
- **Takeoff accuracy:** AI-powered accuracy delivers reliable counts, reducing costly addenda mid-project.
- **Bid more, hire less:** With AI-based takeoffs handling multiple projects at the same time, you can scale your operations without scaling your team.

The Beam AI Advantage

Automated takeoffs handle the takeoff grunt work so your team can focus on strategy, pricing, and value engineering.

★ 100% done-for-you automated takeoffs:

No more hours spent on manual measurements. Let Beam AI automate takeoffs for you.

★ Auto-Detects Revisions and Addenda

Our AI automatically identifies new electrical specifications, keyed notes, and scope changes, ensuring accuracy.

★ Bid 2x more jobs

Process multiple projects at once, boosting your bid velocity without any extra work or hires.

★ Humans + AI

Beam combines AI precision with QA checks to deliver takeoffs you can trust. It's fast, accurate, and bid-ready.

Join over 900+ businesses who trust Beam AI to boost bid submissions



Book a demo