

## CORPORATE PROFILE

iPROsoft Pty Ltd grew out of the particular needs of the construction industry. The company founders, who head up the company today, managed a number of turnkey projects in the utility, mining and industrial sectors throughout Australia and New Zealand. They were driven by the requirement for good, robust software which did not exist.

The software package, **iPROsoft** was created and underwent stringent field testing prior to market release in 1989. Commercial construction and trade contractor companies were invited to test the package and to try and break it.

The subsequent results were good. Not only could the package perform the required tasks but it was robust and secure as well.

Confidence by customers in **iPROsoft** has been the backbone of its commercial success. **iPROsoft** has been revised and re-released each year since commencement to keep pace with market requirements and regulations and to take the best advantage of contemporary technology.

Uncompromising commitment to the quality path has enabled the **iPROsoft** package to be the leader in its field in providing capability, performance and reliability.

**iPROsoft** versions and related projects have been implemented with :

- Builders, covering domestic, commercial and industrial projects
- Turnkey engineering project organizations
- Engineering construction companies
- Project and construction managers
- Electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, cladding, civil, fabrication and fit out contractors
- Architectural and engineering consultancies
- Property developers
- Utilities and Government departments delivering services and projects

Support of software is an issue of central importance. iPROsoft policy is that ongoing software development, quality of documentation, online help, user training, programming, project and consultative services must be readily available to clients before software can be offered.

Today iPROsoft Pty Ltd is well established in Australia and New Zealand and is commencing operations in the United Kingdom.



## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2003

# Getting Control of Plant Hire In for Jobs and Projects

People in construction have problems of hired plant wasting money. They say:

1. The first they know of the cost is when they get the invoice.
2. Even though an item has been invoiced they don't know if the plant is idle, or it is being used, or if it should be retained or returned.
3. They don't know where hired plant is currently located.
4. They don't know where hired plant has been.

This is a fairly obvious set of problems. During the course of our market study in the UK I met Simon Lomax, CEO of Brookes Northern, concrete protection and rectification contractors in Manchester. Simon highlighted the Plant Hire In issue as one which took considerable effort for his company to control. All the Brookes effort to control the hired in plant was outside the business accounting system and so involved what Simon saw as wasteful duplication.

The solution to the problems lay in monitoring the plant hired for jobs as a normal part of the procurement control process. To solve the problems one must track the plant from the time it arrives through to the time it is returned to the hire company. At any time one should be able to list the items still on hire and / or those returned along with information revealing their location, expected return date, receipt date and reference, expenditure to date (whether invoiced or not) and return date and reference in the case of returned items. Ideally the effort required to do all this monitoring should be negligible.

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## CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DETAILS

iPROsoft Pty Ltd will close for the Christmas break from 4.00pm Brisbane time on Tuesday December 23, 2003 and will reopen from 8.00am Brisbane time on Monday January 5, 2004.

If you anticipate needing SUPPORT DURING THIS BREAK, please contact the Brisbane Head Office on +61 7 3004 6100. We will issue you a special contact number for the period you require support.

We wish you all a relaxing and peaceful break and look forward to an exciting 2004 when we will be celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> birthday!

# DATE CLAIMERS

## AUSTRALIA - SEMINARS

In concert with the Australian release of **iPROsoft** Version 2.7.0 we will be conducting seminars in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne in March 2004.

The seminars will cover the enhancements and changes to the **iPROsoft** software package with Version 2.7.0. The seminars will be especially beneficial to people currently utilising the **U-LAUNCH™** technology incorporated in **iPROsoft** or those who would like to learn more about how to use this time saving and powerful tool.

We will also conduct End of Financial Year 2004 Release Seminars in early June 2004, again for the Australian market. These Seminars will be specifically tailored to current users and their Year End requirements.

If you have specific topics you would like covered or questions you would like answered, please forward details to Gabrielle by fax on +61 7 3004 6143 or by email to [info@iprosoft.com](mailto:info@iprosoft.com).

## UNITED KINGDOM - SOFTWARE DEMONSTRATIONS

We will be conducting a further round of software demonstrations in the United Kingdom in January and February 2004 and again in May 2004.

If you are looking for accounting and management software for your business, please contact us to arrange a demonstration of how **iPROsoft** can help you run your business.

Call us on +61 7 3004 6100 or email us at [info@iprosoft.com](mailto:info@iprosoft.com).

# iPROsoft Version 2.7

– Available from February 2004 –

Version 2.6 saw the release of the **U-LAUNCH™** strategy for **iPROsoft** almost a year ago. Version 2.7 continues the **U-LAUNCH™** deployment. **U-LAUNCH™** is a foundation for **iPROsoft** and upon that foundation for Version 2.7 we have placed all the functional enhancements. Featured below are some of the Version 2.7 revisions. At our web site, [www.iprosoft.com](http://www.iprosoft.com) you will see a publication specifying in more detail the full upgrade. Please go to the "Support" section and from there to the list of "Papers and Procedures."

## U-LAUNCH™ Enhancements

**U-LAUNCH™** is the connectivity and exploration software technology developed by iPROsoft Pty Ltd. With the Version 2.60 release of **iPROsoft** user defined "drill downs", program connectivity and personal navigation were implemented using this technology. Version 2.70 of **iPROsoft** delivers an extension of those enhancements.

Using **U-LAUNCH™** technology **iPROsoft** programs are increasingly "data centric". This means their behaviour can be controlled largely by instruction and not unique programming code. Some examples, accompanying the Version 2.7 release include the following:

- Many languages have code generators for general use, however, the GENPROG program set developed by iPROsoft Pty Ltd takes this several steps further and actually generates programs in the **iPROsoft** context. This quantification of rules for the **iPROsoft** system delivers first time accuracy for all the bespoke programming works and configurations involved.
- **U-LAUNCH™** data list view displays look very much the same as tables of information one can see in contemporary Windows applications. The difference is that supervisors can make the data displayed to be defined by who is viewing it. So one can add or delete columns, have personalised column headings and manage their order of appearance.
- Along with the data display filters **iPROsoft U-LAUNCH™** data list views now also include string searches. People can search for the occurrence of words or values in **U-LAUNCH™** data list views.
- Just as supervisors can orchestrate what data a user sees, so they can also individually implement their "in-program" and "related program" menus. The system supervisor can deliver truly task-oriented navigation instead of the old and clumsy "hop in and out of the menu" approach.

In Version 2.7 some commonly used programs like those used for project / job set-up and contract variations have been broken down into accessible components. **U-LAUNCH™** makes capable their access. So if you had the rights and the need you could inspect the

original contract budget set-up from within the variation program without having to go via the more complete job set-up program. Increasing flexibility and efficiency comes from the **U-LAUNCH™** approach of permitting the system to match the tasks as opposed to the awkward and common approach of forcing the tasks to match the system.

**U-LAUNCH™** technology is the quantum difference in user defined "drill downs", connectivity and personal navigation.

## Full Support for Client Progress Applications

For progress applications in construction projects there can be many levels of data. They can include the following.

- The summary sheet, which gives a narrative and the final amounts involved. For many organisations this can be their commercial invoice, for others a "Recipient Created Tax Invoice" application.
- The summary progress certificate, which sets out the original contract value and the value of all the contract extras less the sum claimed to date yielding the value of the current application.
- The break down structures, which set out the contract values and values complete for the current application as well as for the contract to date for the original contract plus the variations and the PC sums.
- The bills of quantities, which contain the detailed measures of completeness for a project's scope.

Through **U-LAUNCH™** technology **iPROsoft** Version 2.7 delivers the option of tying the lot together in one go to easily produce all the documentation commonly required. Now a contract administrator can create a progress application calling all the supporting data from any or all of the foregoing levels without leaving the one progress claim program.

## Plant Hire-In

Ideally the plant you hire in for a job should be used and then returned as soon as possible. You should never be billed for idle plant left at the job site. You should always know where the plant is and has been. You should know how much it has cost whether or not you have been invoiced for it.

For most, reality does not match the ideal. Now Version 2.7 gives you a fighting chance. Please see the feature article in this newsletter.

## Fixed Assets

The **iPROsoft U-LAUNCH™** technology underpins ease of use and the most effective operation of this new Fixed Assets Module.

The Fixed Assets module was featured in the September 2003 Newsletter. A lot of interest was generated as a result. We expect the roll out of the new module across the user group to be progressive through the new-year to match our customers' requirements. We also expect the most intense period of implementation to be around our customers' financial year-end dates.

This new module replaces the last of the third party modules used and supported by iPROsoft Pty Ltd. This is consistent with our policy of developing fully our own accounting software modules. Appropriately full integration and control can be best exerted if we do it ourselves.

## Deploying **iPROsoft** to Project and Services Personnel

**U-LAUNCH™** enabled project and job displays and tailored task options aid project and services managers to efficiently manage their work and to make their decisions.

Some organisations require further security by limiting access to projects and jobs only to those people nominated for specific projects and jobs. There is nothing new in this and Version 2.7 accommodates it. What's really different is that **U-LAUNCH™** technology permits iPROsoft Pty Ltd and our customers' system supervisors to make available the narrowest or indeed widest program selection possible to be constrained this way.

## Payroll

Of the three countries in which we operate Australia has by far the most demanding and intricate set of pays and conditions for personnel. Matching the demands for payroll in the Australian Construction Industry is just about the toughest there is.

Version 2.7 adds multiple allowances per work type, deductions for excessive leave in termination pays and accident top up insurance. We have streamlined superannuation calculations by flagging allowances for inclusion.

We are absolutely confident that **iPROsoft** is not just the best but the only close model for almost all Construction Industry Enterprise Bargaining Agreements.

## Multi-Divisional Corporations and Groups

For our customers who use the quad-accounting processes involving treasury companies, project companies and inter-company loans, Version 2.7 includes individual and group Business Activity Statements for statutory reporting.

For our customers who have multiple divisions of one company contributing to a single progress application or invoice, Version 2.7 facilitates rolling individual claims of each division into a single company progress application or invoice to the one customer.

## Data Retention

Version 2.7 continues the initiative of Version 2.6 in retaining all data. In the early days to conserve disk space data was purged from accounting systems, rolling details into summary only. With contemporary hardware, databases and efficient indexing the need to

purge has long since evaporated. So much is this so that in Version 2.6 we removed the purging option.

Now one can use closure and job number change utilities to archive jobs and projects leaving them out of the way but available on-line. Version 2.7 continues the process by storing period calendars going back to the year of the first system entries. Current financial reporting has been revised with functions to cope with multiple leap years. So with this enhancement, provided the data existed, an **iPROsoft** customer can order a period based financial report for a period a decade ago.

## Data Coming from Third Party Systems.

To aid migration from legacy packages and to simply import data from existing third party data stores a standardised general import utility has been included with **iPROsoft** Version 2.7.

**iPROsoft** Version 2.7 will be available from February 2004.

# Version 2.70 Release Seminars

**Brisbane** : Monday March 15, 2004  
**Sydney** : Wednesday March 17  
and  
Thursday March 18, 2004  
**Melbourne** : Friday March 19, 2004

***Year End 2004 Release Seminars***

***Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne in early June 2004***



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- Royal Agricultural Society Homebush Bay, Exhibition Halls & Administration Building
- The Sydney Superdome
- Blacktown Public Hospital
- The Riverside Corporate Park, North Ryde
- Royal North Shore Poem Building
- Lang Park Stadium, Queensland

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# Getting Control of Plant Hire In for Jobs and Projects

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We heeded Simon's advice relating to the importance and proliferation of the issue. The **iPROsoft** solution, being released in Version 2.7 in February 2004 involves the following:

1. First you order the plant item(s) to be hired. Your order may involve other items, which are not plant hire. You record the item specification, rate per DAY and number of expected days in each plant order. The distinction is that the unit of cost must be per "DAY" for the order line items, which are for plant. With such a unit captured in the purchase order programs you will have the opportunity to flag the order line item as one involving plant at a daily rate of hire and so differentiate its treatment in the post order monitoring processes called "expediting".
2. Having ordered the plant the next thing to do is record the receipt of each item of plant, the location of storage or usage and the expected return date. You do this with the normal **iPROsoft** procurement expediting program. When you committed your order you flagged the plant hire items. That "flagging" enables the expediting program to offer receipt and return date data capture fields for the plant hire items. The expediting program's behavior is different for items, which are not plant hire.
3. Every time your plant hire order is examined, such as when you run a report or check the value expended, **iPROsoft** updates the cost assessment of the plant hire line items as a function of the days elapsed since the receipt date for each item. Of course items you have indicated as returned will not undergo such updates.
4. Using the expediting program you will be able to update for current location and expected return date. When the hire is no longer required you will be able to record the date of return and any return reference.

We thank Simon Lomax for insisting on Plant Hire In control be integrated and for also pointing out quite accurately that virtually all packages omit this important function. Our simple solution gives **iPROsoft** another competitive advantage.

By Mark Gravolin, Director of iPROsoft Pty Ltd

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