PlanRadar panel: AI can slash UK construction waste by 20% and dry lining rework by 70%

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 PlanRadar, a leading digital documentation, communication and reporting platform, recently hosted an incisive panel discussion on the use of AI in construction.

The occasion, held at PlanRadar's UK HQ, brought together professionals from across the industry to discuss the massive opportunity artificial intelligence presents to address some of construction's most persistent challenges.

The expert panel discussion, featuring John Priestland (Founder, Priestland Consulting & Chair, GIRI), Iain McIlwee (Chief Executive, FIS), and Rob Norton (UK Director, PlanRadar), highlighted the immense potential of AI. The panel revealed that AI technology could dramatically reduce the estimated 20% waste currently plaguing the sector. This transformation could be the most significant since the advent of computer-aided design, offering a clear call to action for UK construction firms.

Key takeaways from the discussion included:

- Waste reduction:
- The panel noted that up to 70% of dry lining work requires costly rework. AI presents a genuine opportunity to systematically address error sources throughout the entire construction cycle.
- Data quality is key:
- A major hurdle for AI adoption is the lack of standardized data. The panel stressed the principle of 'bad data in, bad data out', urging for industry-wide standardization of language and processes.

- Workforce evolution:
- While AI will automate repetitive tasks, it is expected to enhance human capabilities in complex areas, creating new career pathways rather than simply displacing jobs.
- Strategic implementation:
- The discussion urged businesses to act now, noting that early adopters will gain a significant competitive advantage. The panel recommended immediate investment in data quality, the establishment of human verification protocols, and strategic partnerships with technology providers.

As John Priestland, Founder, Priestland Consulting & Chair, GIRI, was keen to stress, "This isn't about replacing human expertise, it's about augmenting it. The firms that understand this distinction will thrive in the AI-enabled construction landscape."

Closing up the discussion, Rob Norton capped off proceedings, saying "As the industry grapples with housing targets, infrastructure investment and sustainability requirements, AI emerges not as a luxury enhancement but as an essential tool for meeting 21st century construction demands."

To find out more about PlanRadar and how it's incorporating AI into its own platforms and SaaS products click here.