

Rhino App approved for MTD

Mandatory Making Tax Digital (MTD) reporting for income tax has been delayed till 2020. Businesses that are signed up the Making Tax Digital are required to send the regular Income Tax updates to HMRC. These businesses require software to keep records of income and expenses.

However, businesses can sign up to the pilot MTD for Income Tax from March 2018 here gov.uk: Use software to send income tax updates. Agents can sign up on Agents: use software to send income tax updates.

HMRC has approved the Rhino App for the submission of business accounts from the app to HMRC online Making Tax Digital (MTD) portal. Rhino app is integrated with the HMRC platform and is the only one to be used directly by businesses (not agents) approved by the HMRC. Other

software suppliers include Absolute, Forbes and IRIS.

Eugene Blaine founded Rhino Software Ltd in 2012. Prior to this, he founded Atlantic Global, which went Public in 2001 and was eventually sold to Keyedin Solutions, a leading US based software company in 2012. Atlantic Global built and supplied business software solutions to world leading organisations like Barclays Bank, HSBC, Pfizer, GSK, Aviva.

Rhino App is perfect tool for sole traders, small and medium sized businesses that are looking for a single solution to run their business operations and provide all details to their accountant. With Rhino app there is a quick and direct access for HMRC updates, while making return submissions is easier, faster and cheaper.

Unlike many accounting apps, Rhino provides its full feature set via the mobile device. Functionality includes contact management, estimating, invoicing, expense tracking and financial management. And now the app integrates directly with HMRC for direct submission to save busi-

nesses time and cost.

To make getting started with Rhino App fast and simple, the app offers selectable configurations featuring sector-specific terminology for several popular business areas, such as retail, building trades, professional services and many others.

At the heart of the app's philosophy is a stated commitment to champion small businesses. Rhino App founder, Eugene Blaine, drew upon years of corporate software development expertise to re-engineer the pivotal features of those solutions to an agile mobile platform. "We wanted to stand up for small business and help drive success by making the Rhino app powerful but incredibly easy to use," he states. "With that goal achieved, Rhino users can reduce their accounting fees and tax bills."

The simplicity of the app and ease with which estimates, invoicing, expenditure and finance can be managed alleviates the burden of administration that so often eats into personal time for sole traders and small business owners. "Rhino App can give them their evenings and weekends back. That's the tangible measure of success," claims Blaine.

Rhino App is pre-configured for architects, engineers, builders, plumbers, electricians, carpenters etc. Its functions allow to:

- access customer informations
- create invoices on the smartphone, tablet or computer
- manage clients, estimates, jobs
- enter notes and reminders for employees
- track expenses and store receipts using camera
- track customers payments
- produce accounts

"HMRC does not recommend or endorse any one product or software supplier and is not responsible for any problems you have with software."

**More information
on Rhino App is available
at rhinoapps.com**



Plumber of the Year 2018

The 2018 UK Plumber of the Year is launched by bathroom giants JT, Plumb Center and Bristan. This year will be the fourth edition of this awards.

The competition's Official Judging Partner, Watersafe, the online directory and national accreditation body for competent and qualified plumbers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, will shortlist 3 plumbers from each of the following regions (North England, South England, Midlands and West, Northern Ireland Wales, Scotland) from the applications submitted by Friday 6th July 2018. Moreover, the public will vote too for who they believe deserves to be crowned their local winner with each of the six regional finalists then going through to the grand final which will be held at Bristan HQ later in the year.

Chris Sneath MBE, founding director and chairman of WaterSafe, will be on the judging panel for the second year running. He said: "It's an honour to return to the UK Plumber of the Year competition as an official judge. "Last year saw a record number of applications and it was both inspiring and reassuring to see so many talented, professional plumbers across the UK who were proud to showcase their work. "I'm looking forward to see what 2018's candidates have to offer and would encourage everyone to enter."

The winner will receive a 10k prize pot. Also, there is a range of prizes for runner's-up and winners. However, it's not about the prizes but also about the recognition and media exposure. Previously crowned plumbers have seen their trade thrive since getting the title.

Qualified plumbers can apply at ukplumberoftheyear.com with details of a project that demonstrates their skills. Enrol now.

(Source: watersafe.org.uk, ukplumberoftheyear.com)



The Uk Government has launched the 22m fund to tackle the construction skills shortage. It will give the opportunities for students to apply their knowledge on the building sites. The problem of skills shortages severely impact the home building and renovation sector. The Construction Skills Fund will help to meet the employers needs. The 18-month scheme is funded by the Department for Education and will be administered by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Construction Skills Fund

The fund forms a vital part of the Government's modern Industrial Strategy – a long-term plan to build a Britain fit for the future by helping businesses create jobs in every part of the UK. It underlines the Government's commitment to improving education standards for everyone, so they can gain the skills they need to succeed and can secure good jobs.

CITB is now calling on employers, housing associations and other interested bodies such as LEPs

and local authorities to submit expressions of interest. These can be from both existing and prospective on-site learning hubs.

The fund aims to support:

- 20 on-site training hubs in England
- Work experience and placements for people working to join the industry
- Entry pathways for those currently unemployed



- Pathways for career switchers.

The funding will only support on-site training provision, and access to live construction projects is essential to qualify.

Skills Minister Anne Milton said: "For our economy to thrive we need everyone, regardless of their age or background, to be able to get the training and the skills they need to make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

"The Government has committed to building 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s and we want to make sure that we are investing in the UK skills base to deliver this."

A career in construction offers the chance for many people to establish and grow their own business. On-site training will be hugely beneficial for employers and trainees, as it will help bridge the gap between training and working in the industry, meaning trainees are site-ready sooner.

Minister of State for Housing Dominic Raab said: "A construction workforce with new and innovative skills is essential to building a housing market fit for the future.

"We have already invested £1bn to develop modern approaches in the industry and the Con-

struction Skills Fund will teach builders the skills they need to deliver 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s."

Steve Radley, Policy Director at CITB, said: "The Construction Skills Fund is a milestone scheme for the sector and provides a significant investment in skills and training. It will help attract new talent and bridge the gap between training and working in the industry.

(Source: CITB)



Project Sunroof

Google has collaborated with E.ON and launched Project Sunroof Tool in the UK. It works out cost savings for the particular roof structures fitted with solar panels. Project Sunroof is the solar savings estimator which assess whether the roof is suitable for solar panels. It uses Google Earth and Google Maps to establish whether the property is suitable for the renewable technologies.

This tool assess how much sunlight will hit the property and how much space there is for a solar panels. This allows to estimate the project savings. The tool was first launched in the US in 2015.

Customers input the contact details and address plus data of roof area, pitch, etc. Sunroof tool estimates how much solar potential a house has by examining the property's features and weather data like for instance sun positioning. Project Sunroof uses the Google Earth imagery to analyse the roof shape and local weather to then create a personalised estimate. Customised savings estimates take into account the roof shape, size, shaded areas, local weather, local electricity prices, solar costs and estimated incentives.

Factors that determines the savings from installation of solar panels include:

- How well is roof positioned for sun
- Power consumption
- Electricity rates
- Energy efficiency incentives
- Cost of installation and maintenance
- Rates for excess electricity

Project Sunroof recommends an installation size to generate almost 100% of homeowners electricity use, as there is not always beneficial to produce more power for sale.

Currently this tool is available in selected parts of the UK: Newcastle, Birmingham, Liverpool, Brighton, Reading, London. Similar tools for solar panels assessments are available from Ikea or Tesla.

Visit eon-solar.co.uk to learn more about this tool or to assess your roof.

Future of the UK construction industry

The UK construction sector could lose 8% of workforce post-Brexit which account for almost 200,000 EU workers. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) data published in February revealed that the number of Eastern European nationals working in the UK last year slid by 5 per cent. The availability of skilled workers is a significant risk for the delays in new builds delivery. The continuity of the tariff-free market would be beneficial for the building materials supply, but this part is still in negotiation.

Even that the UK construction prospects have been downgraded and the forecast showed that the sector would expand in the slowest rate in six years, mainly due to a combination of slowing economy, falling wages and increasing costs it is still attractive for new entrants.

The construction sector is the vital part of the economy as both construction goods and services could add billions to the budget if the industry will develop in line with other areas such as manufacturing, retail and IT technology. It's up to current construction players and new

entrants if the sector will grow from the second-least digitalised to the most prominent in some types of technologies like for instance drones.

The productivity of the construction industry could rise with the investment into digitalisation and the automation of building projects. Smaller construction businesses are starting to adopt digital strategies like for instance BIM. In addition to cloud-based tools, apps or programs help to manage the building process efficiently. Moreover, automation of works by using drones and robots is becoming more popular. Offsite

construction is growing too.

Innovation and green technologies are changing the UK built environment into modern and healthy. With Brexit around the corner, British manufacturers will have to keep up the processes to ensure the supply of the best quality products.

Skills development and training opportunities like apprenticeships are encouraging new entrants into the sector. Skills shortages in building trades in the UK are the significant threat to the delivery of new homes and the progress of the industry. Contractors could use technology to attract new young workers. The sector has one of the highest input to the British economy, but it is struggling to find skilled permanent workforce. It is evident that construction involves hard work, either physical on building site or in one of responsible managing roles. However, the salaries or returns on projects are covering any drawbacks. There are endless opportunities within the industry for women as well.





Construction fraud

Approximately over 100m each year is lost in only VAT fraud related cases within construction industry. Construction businesses commit fraud if they charge VAT on their labour supply, receive that VAT but not declare and pay it to HMRC. Organised criminals set up fraudulent shell companies to steal VAT whilst operating in construction services. This is commonly referred to as 'missing trader' fraud. HMRC propose the introduction of the reverse charge to save millions.

Moreover, there is a leak in the direct tax where traders manage to achieve Gross Payment Status

(GPS) and avoid paying tax on their receipts. The new measure will replace the VAT payments on B2B construction work. The 'reverse charge' makes the customer responsible for reporting the transaction; but no VAT payment is made, so cannot be misappropriated. The reverse charge will impact on 100,000 to 150,00 building firms.

Last month, on the 25th of June, the Hampshire builder was pleaded guilty to the fraudulent evasion of VAT. He falsely claimed £750,000 of VAT repayments and has been jailed for two years and eight months. Peter Howes, 58, of Waterlooville, Hampshire, submitted fraudulent VAT returns to HMRC between June 2011 and October 2017. He claimed he was working as a builder and entitled to VAT repayments on his taxable purchases. Howes fraudulently claimed £750,602 under his former trading name of 'P D Howes Building and Development'. Investigation showed that Howes hadn't been working and had simply made up the figures on his VAT returns.

Richard Wilkinson, Assistant Director, Fraud

Investigation Service, HMRC, commented: "Howes committed VAT fraud to fund his gambling habit, and is now in jail for his crime. He stopped working as a builder and used the tax system as his personal bank account. It is simply not acceptable to steal from UK taxpayers and the public services we all rely upon.

"HMRC will continue to pursue those criminals who attack the tax system. We ask anyone with information about suspected VAT fraud to report it to us online or contact our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887."

According to the estimates HMRC has a tax gap of £36 billions, the smallest in 10 years but anyway fraud controllers are planning to audit SMEs in the near future.

Anyone with information regarding suspected VAT fraud is encouraged to report it online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-vat-fraud> or contact the HMRC Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 8

(Source: HMRC)



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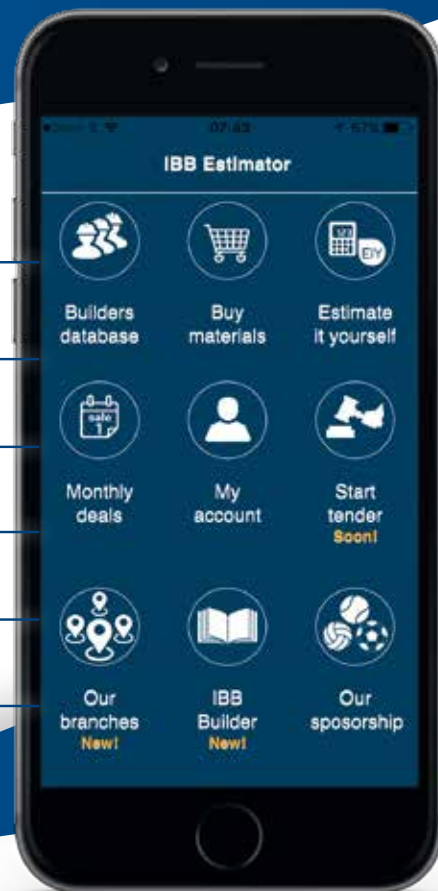
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ASUC

ASUC is an independent trade association ensuring high standard in underpinning and subsidence repair, engineered foundation solutions and retrofit basement. It was formed by leading contractors to promote professional and technical competence in these areas.

Members of ASUC offer an extended range of foundation solutions, including new build, basements and other forms of subsidence repairs.

Specialists who wish to join ASUC will be assessed and audited in the technical, health and safety, insurance and financial grounds. Moreover, contractors have to commit to the prescribed health and safety procedures.

Following the collapse of a two-storey house from roof to basement in London in February 2018, spe-

cialist trade association ASUC has called on local authorities to put in place tighter control on contractors undertaking basement works. Firefighters were called to the dramatic scene in Sumatra Road, the police cordoned off the area and ten people were evacuated while the site was made safe by Camden Council's structural engineer and London Fire Brigade.

The property was empty for approximately 10 years. The permission was granted in 2013 to extend the basement and it is believed the construction workers had been removing rubble left by underpinning contractors who were shoring up the building.

Rob Withers, ASUC Chief Executive, said: "Images of the site show a conveyor and small excavator in the basement that suggest the collapse could be base-ment related.

"Whatever the case it is apparent, on a structure in which major renovation works are being carried out, the temporary works design, if it existed must be at fault or been incorrectly installed.

"We have called upon local authorities many times to insist on competent contractors being engaged in this type of work, with many recommend-

ing ASUC members, but apparently lacking the will to make it mandatory.

"How many more collapses of this nature will it take for action to be taken or do we need a fatality in the news to get action?"

ASUC members are audited on health and safety and technical capabilities in order to gain membership, which is reviewed every two years to ensure standards are maintained. Last year one member was expelled from ASUC membership because of non-compliance with a health and safety audit.

ASUC members can offer an insurance warranty on all the works carried out under the contract. The latent defects insurance can cover all the works carried out under contract at a property - not just the subsidence repair. ASUC now has three forms of insurance warranties. These differ from insurance backed warranties which only apply if the operating company has ceased to trade and there is still the need to prove negligence. The ASUC suite of three warranties are latent defects insurance each with a unique place in the market, and there is no need to prove negligence.

THE DIG - Defects Insurance Guarantee - applies to underpinning, mini piling and foundation works it is for remedial works principally but can be used for new foundations as well if required.

THE BIG - Basement Insurance Guarantee - applies to domestic retro-fit basements.

THE FIG - Foundation Insurance Guarantee - applies to engineered foundation solutions.

For more information on ASUC membership visit www.asuc.org.uk

