

FIELD REPORT

NECA EMERGE · PREFABRICATION TRACK



The State of *Prefab*

Two days. Three shop tours. 200+ attendees from contractors across the country, comparing notes on what already works, what doesn't, and where prefab goes next.

APRIL 2026

LETTERS

Dear EMERGE Prefab Track Attendees,

On behalf of NECA, thank you. It was a privilege to launch the inaugural Prefabrication Track at our 2026 event and to learn alongside you.

Progress is built through shared experience. Innovation happens when contractors open their doors, walk each other's floors, and challenge assumptions together. This track delivered exactly that.

You saw it firsthand on each site. Walking the shops, seeing the work in motion, and engaging in real conversations created insights no classroom can replicate. That's where transformation begins.

Our exceptional hosts, **Allison-Smith Company**, **Inglett & Stubbs**, and **United Electric**, set the pace through their leadership and transparency. We're equally grateful to **BuildTime** for sponsoring this track and for being the type of partner worthy of trust and committed to building the future alongside you.

In the pages that follow, you'll find a clear synthesis of this experience: **who** participated, **what** was discussed, **where** each shop stood out, practical signals for **when** your own operations are ready for the next step, **why** prefabrication is critical, and **how** we prepare for what's ahead.

To our speakers, staff, and attendees; thank you for showing up, leaning in, and sharing in a way that will shape what comes next. This was more than your typical conference; it was a signal of where our industry is headed and how we will get there: together.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you.



Tauhira Ali
Executive Director of Industry Innovation
NECA



Dear Prefab Track Attendees,

On behalf of BuildTime, thank you. It was an honor to sponsor the prefabrication track and learn alongside you.

At BuildTime, we believe experience matters. And accuracy matters. In construction, the two are mixed: accurate time drives accurate pay and accurate job costing. That combination informs better decisions and creates competitive advantage.

The full labor picture is shop and field. Labor is your largest variable cost. The supervisor's experience in recording time matters. If that doesn't work, any downstream benefits break down.

You experienced this firsthand during the shop tours. You scanned your EMERGE badges. That produced data we shared live. We showed you the analytics BuildTime delivers and how this gives project managers and executives real-time insights into business opportunity and risk.

The real highlight? The experience, journey, and business insights shared by our incredible hosts: **Allison-Smith**, **Inglett & Stubbs**, and **United Electric**. Their stories of prefabrication transformation were what made these tours unforgettable.

We hope you enjoyed the espresso. Like each of your companies and your people, each blend had a story. When you're ready, we'd love to share an espresso and explore how BuildTime fits your prefabrication journey.

Accurate pay is table stakes. Accurate job costing changes the game.

We look forward to connecting with you.

Grateful,
Shawn Ryan &
BuildTime Team

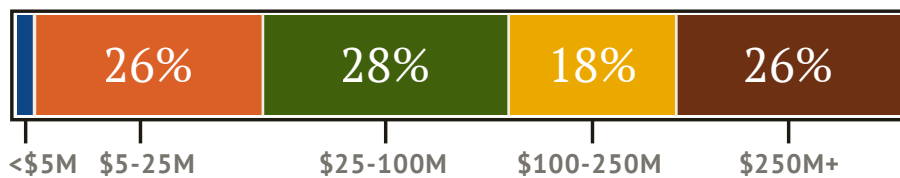


Who Attended

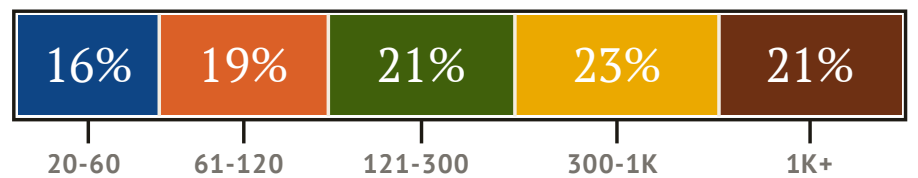
~90 pre-tour respondents • 200+ total track attendees • companies coast to coast.



ANNUAL REVENUE



COMPANY SIZE • EMPLOYEES



74% of attendees came from companies *already doing prefab.*

PREFAB MATURITY

No Prefab	26%
Testing	18%
Dedicated Area	25%
Full Shop	25%
Modular/Multi-trade	6%

TYPE OF WORK

Commercial Electrical	39%
Data Centers / Mission Critical	19%
Industrial Electrical	16%
Other	13%
Prefab / Modular Construction	10%
Low Voltage / Systems	3%

Different shops, the same short list.

TOP MOTIVATIONS • BY FREQUENCY



GOALS FOR THE TOURS

- "Learn best practices from peers"
- "See what others are doing that I'm not"
- "Learn how to sell the prefab idea"
- "Ideas — what can be done in reality"

HOW PREFAB IMPROVED MY COMPANY

- "Changed the way we run jobs"
- "The type of work we can win"
- "Forced us to improve our planning"
- "Schedule, quality, safety"

The contractors in the room didn't talk about prefab in metrics. They talked about how it changed the way they think.

Truths from the room — and what they're already moving on.

WHAT'S WORKING · BEST PRACTICES EXCHANGE

- Plan more upfront.**
More coordination before work hits the field — fewer conflicts, fewer questions, less lost time.
- Standardize relentlessly.**
Repeatable assemblies, organized kitting, consistent work cells. The gains compound.
- Put your best people in the shop.**
Prefab works best when your strongest field talent is involved in building it.
- Invest in technology.**
BIM coordination, QuickBase, Smartsheet, connected digital workflows — already separating leaders.

WHAT'S NEXT · THE ROOM WAS ALREADY LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

<p>Electrical Contractor as manufacturer.</p> <p>The shift from installer to factory operator is underway. The boldest shops are already prefabbing for other contractors.</p>	<p>Automation & AI on the floor.</p> <p>Robotics for repetitive tasks, AI-assisted scheduling, software-driven production — no longer hypothetical.</p>	<p>Multi-trade is the frontier.</p> <p>Single-trade prefab is becoming table stakes. The next edge is coordinated, multi-trade modular.</p>
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WHAT WILL SEPARATE THE LEADERS

TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION	MANUFACTURING MINDSET
STANDARDIZATION	WILLINGNESS TO EXPERIMENT
FAIL FORWARD	

None of it requires a massive shop or budget to start.
It requires a decision.

"Those who do something will prosper."

Three companies. Three approaches. One direction.

The heart of the track wasn't a conference room. It was the shop floor.

STOP 01

United Electric Co.

13 YEARS OF PREFAB	10k SQ.FT.	New Hires START IN SHOP
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Thirteen years in, United Electric proves you don't need a massive operation to run a great one. Their 10,000 sq. ft. facility is clean, organized, and intentional, and prefab touches every job they run. New hires start in the shop before they ever set foot on a jobsite.

MOST WANTED TO TRY
MC/whip automation
Fixture testing stations
QR labeling

STOP 02

Inglett & Stubbs

173 PREFAB STAFF	30 BIM MODLERS	25% GOAL BY 2030
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With 173 dedicated prefab staff, 30 BIM modelers, and a goal of 25% prefabrication by 2030, I&S operates more like a manufacturer than a contractor. In 2025 alone they logged 182,000 prefab hours and maintained a 0.55 EMR across 2.9 million company manhours.

MOST WANTED TO TRY
Crippa automated bender
Laser cutter
QuickBase integration

STOP 03

Allison-Smith Co.

360k SQ.FT.	1k+ ELECTRICIANS	13 YEARS OF PREFAB
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Over 360,000 square feet of fabrication space. More than 1,000 electricians. Eight decades of building. Allison-Smith showed attendees what prefab looks like when it's truly embedded in how a company operates, from underground ductbank assemblies to full modular construction.

MOST WANTED TO TRY
Underground ductbank fab
CNC machines
Weld shop capability

“The leaders won't be the ones who waited. They'll be the ones who started.”

You clocked in. You saw the data. Now imagine this *every day.*



2 Days. 3 Shops. 8 Stations

TUESDAY

114 Unique individuals

51

TOTAL AT
UNITED ELECTRIC

18

TOTAL AT
INGLETT & STUBBS

46

TOTAL AT
ALLISON-SMITH

318 Scans across all stations

WEDNESDAY

88 Unique individuals

54

TOTAL AT
UNITED ELECTRIC

64

TOTAL AT
INGLETT & STUBBS

56

TOTAL AT
ALLISON-SMITH

400 Scans across all stations

82

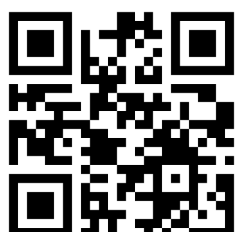
TOTAL COMPANIES
TOOK PREFAB TOUR

131

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS
TOOK PREFAB TOUR

Accurate pay is table stakes. Accurate job costing changes the game.

*Prefab is essential to compete.
Accurate time is essential to win.*



Schedule a Demo

See how BuildTime maximizes you across every role.

www.buildtime.us →



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