

The Hidden Cost of Scale

Why Broadband Infrastructure Needs a New Operating Model



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Render

Across the country, broadband project volume is growing and becoming more complex. Fueled by public funding, private investment, and rising demand for digital equity, operators and builders are taking on programs at a size and speed that were unthinkable just a few years ago.

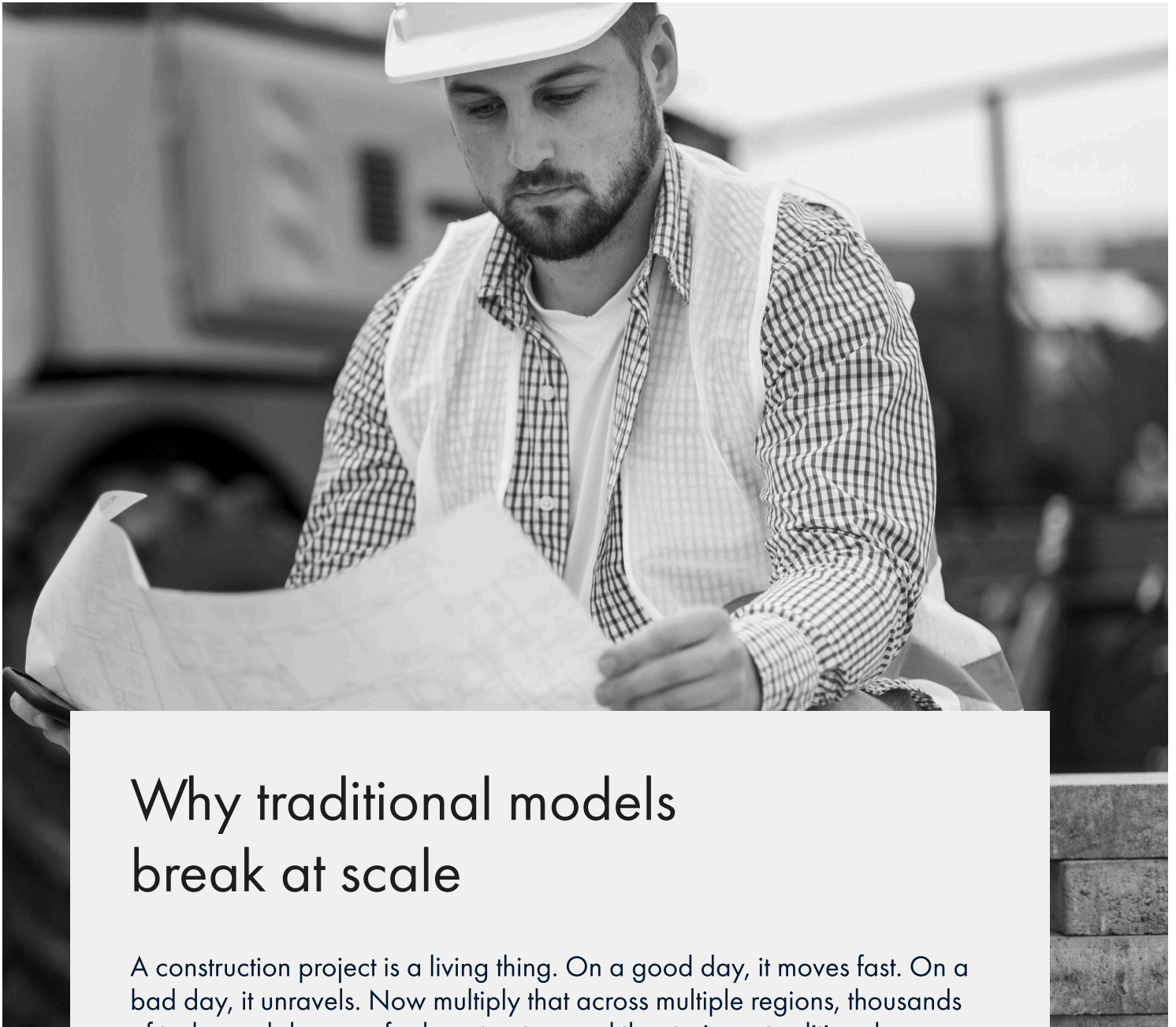
But while the scale of deployment has changed, the systems behind it have not. Most fiber builds are still managed with a patchwork of spreadsheets, PDFs, emails, dailies, and siloed platforms that can't keep up with modern complexity. At scale, these inefficiencies become impossible to ignore.

Deadlines slip. Cash flow stalls. Coordination breaks down.

And the bigger the project, the bigger the consequences.

It's time to rethink the foundation of broadband delivery. We need a new model that aligns people, processes, and platforms around real-time execution. One that empowers the field, reduces overhead, and drives better financial outcomes from day one.





Why traditional models break at scale

A construction project is a living thing. On a good day, it moves fast. On a bad day, it unravels. Now multiply that across multiple regions, thousands of tasks, and dozens of subcontractors and the strain on traditional processes becomes unsustainable.

In a smaller footprint, the manual approach may suffice. But at scale, it demands entire teams just to manage the churn: updating schedules, tracking quantities, validating invoices, reconciling design changes, and chasing down progress updates from the field.

Even the best teams can't overcome the limits of a broken system. Without real-time insight, delays compound, materials are misallocated, low priority activity is done before high priority, revenue generating activity, and crews work from outdated plans. Meanwhile, project managers are stuck reacting to problems that could have been prevented.

The cost isn't just human effort and frustration. It erodes the ability to sustain free cash flow. Every delay ties up revenue. Every rework eats into margin. And every inefficiency drags down profitability across the network deployment.

Why automation matters and what it makes possible

At Blue Streak, as the industry and way we work continues to evolve, we recognized the vital importance of enhancing our automation capabilities. We quickly determined that Render had the full tool set to meet our goals and adapt to complex environments.

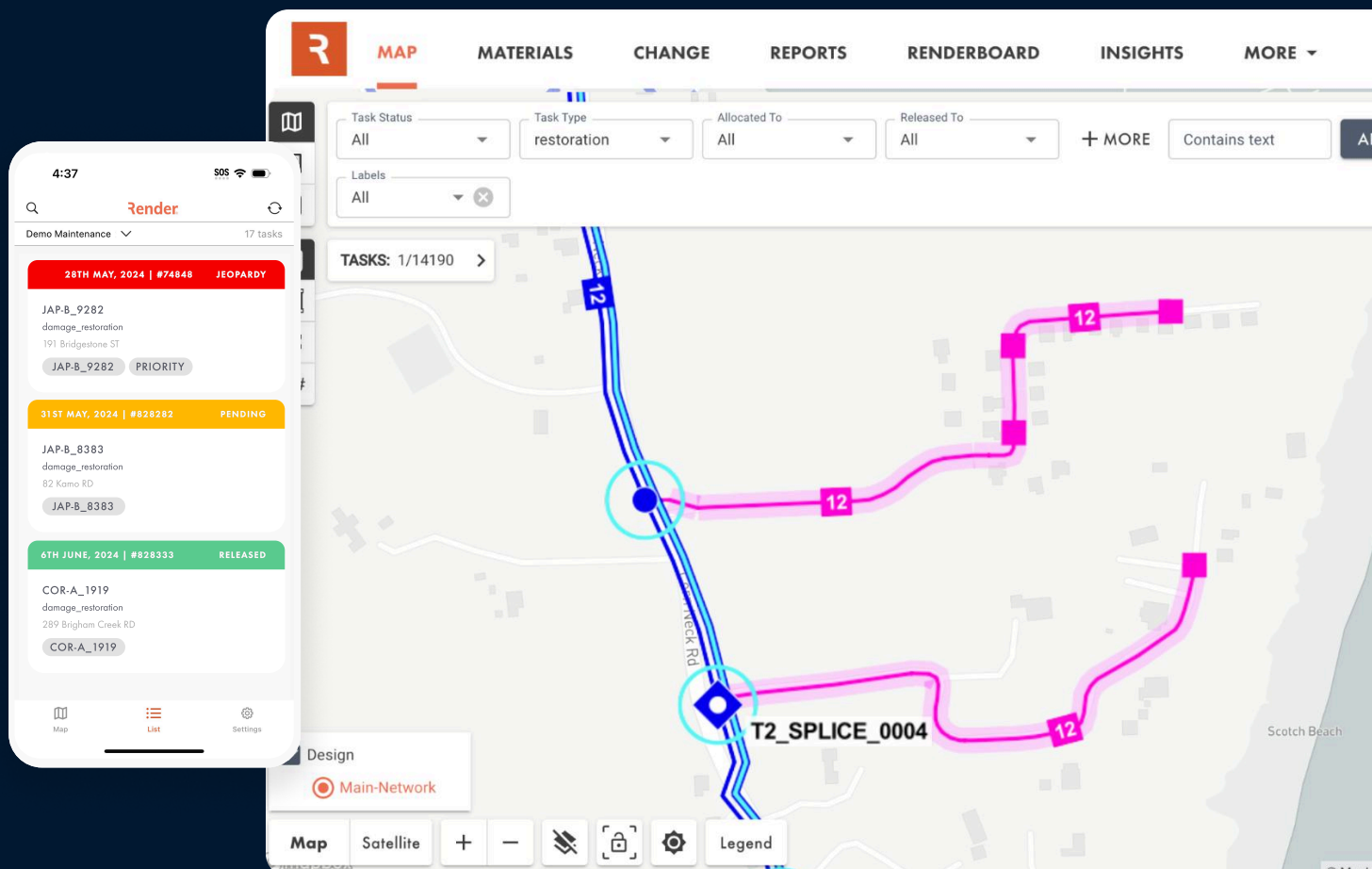
Render is the platform we always envisioned. One that could handle the realities of large and small-scale deployment without requiring armies of people to make it work. It brought together everything we needed: engineering, permitting, locates, construction, material flow, and field data capture in one unified environment.

We're managing outcomes, not just tasks. Every change is reflected in real time. Our teams can see the live status of permits, locates, field progress, completion percentages, and respond proactively instead of reactively.

Render is malleable. It works with our existing systems and adapts to the way we build. And the impact is tangible.

Because Render captures validated, structured data as the work happens, we don't have to wait until the project is completed to move forward with invoicing. The moment a task is finished, inspected, and approved, the data is already in the system ready to support billing without delay.

That has accelerated our invoicing cycles, improved cash flow, reduced administrative burden, and strengthened trust across our internal and external teams.



Scaling our workforce differently

Too often, automation is viewed as a job threat. But for Blue Streak, it's been the opposite. Render has allowed us to repurpose people to more rewarding, technical activities, not replace them.

We've saved thousands of hours in administrative work and reduced inspection-related headcount in one group by more than 20 percent, but no one has been pushed out. Instead, we're investing in our teams. The people who were once focused on repetitive tasks are now mentoring junior staff and stepping into more strategic roles.

Render has helped us grow without growing headcount linearly. And that's a fundamental shift in how we scale.

Crews trust the system because it works for them. They always have the latest design, know exactly what to do, and don't waste time duplicating efforts. That kind of cultural adoption only happens when tools are built for the people doing the work.



The impact across the business

Render hasn't just streamlined construction. It's transformed how we operate.

We now have clean, real-time data flowing from the field to the front office. That means:

- ✓ Revenue forecasting is more accurate.
- ✓ Invoicing is faster and more reliable.
- ✓ Engineering to construction and construction to as-built handoffs are easy and automated.
- ✓ Leadership has greater visibility across every phase.
- ✓ Risk is identified and mitigated earlier.

Everything moves faster. With less friction. And ultimately, that translates to bottom-line profitability.

What's next

The future isn't about digitizing manual processes. It's about reimagining the network deployment system itself.

Infrastructure should move at the speed of digital, not paper. And that requires more than technology. It demands intelligence that's built into every step of the process, from the design team to the people in the trench.

But intelligence only matters if the field can keep up.

At Blue Streak, we believe the next wave of industry leadership will come from those who enable real-time data at the center of their processes, empower their workforce with the right tools, and align systems around outcomes.

This shift isn't just operational.
It's financial.
It's cultural.
And it's already underway.