**Executive Summary**

**Disputes Prevention & Resolution**

The executive summary for “Disputes Prevention & Resolution” synthesizes the key insights and findings from the provided research, highlighting best practices, tools, and frameworks to minimize disputes in the construction industry.

Effective dispute prevention and resolution in construction require addressing three core causes: project uncertainty, process inefficiencies, and interpersonal conflicts. Failure to mitigate these leads to costly, time-consuming litigation. Preventive measures should prioritize on-site resolution through timely interventions by project personnel, supported by robust training in negotiation and conflict resolution skills ([RS23-1](https://www.construction-institute.org/disputes-prevention-and-resolution-techniques-in-the-construction-industry)). The inclusion of Dispute Review Boards (DRBs) and transparent communication among stakeholders further enhances proactive resolution approaches ([SD-95](https://www.construction-institute.org/dispute-prevention-and-resolution)).

DRBs have been particularly successful, emphasizing early, on-site resolution facilitated by neutral experts. Their informal, trust-based nature aligns with partnering principles, ensuring disputes are addressed collaboratively and efficiently without escalation to litigation ([SD-95](https://www.construction-institute.org/dispute-prevention-and-resolution)). Owners are pivotal in implementing these systems, with success contingent on their leadership in initiating and maintaining preventive measures ([SD-95](https://www.construction-institute.org/dispute-prevention-and-resolution)).

Innovative tools like the Disputes Potential Index (DPI) enable predictive analysis of dispute likelihood based on project characteristics such as management quality, complexity, and risk allocation. This tool supports preconstruction readiness and ongoing project monitoring, fostering proactive mitigation strategies ([SD-101](https://www.construction-institute.org/dpi-dispute-potential-index-a-study-into-the-predictability-of-contract-disputes)).

Key recommendations include:

* **Starting Right**: Initiate preconstruction strategies like constructability reviews, risk allocation, and inclusion of dispute prevention clauses in contracts. Enhance partnering agreements to align stakeholders toward common goals.
* **Staying Right**: Foster team building, training, and transparent communication to maintain collaborative project environments. Regular documentation reviews and clear conflict resolution protocols reduce misunderstandings.
* **Providing for Resolution**: Implement structured mechanisms such as DRBs, mediation, and arbitration to resolve disputes expediently on-site while keeping project managers actively involved.

Ultimately, integrating these strategies into project management practices minimizes adversarial interactions, reduces costs, and ensures project continuity, benefiting all stakeholders involved ([RS23-1](https://www.construction-institute.org/disputes-prevention-and-resolution-techniques-in-the-construction-industry); [SD-95](https://www.construction-institute.org/dispute-prevention-and-resolution); [SD-101](https://www.construction-institute.org/dpi-dispute-potential-index-a-study-into-the-predictability-of-contract-disputes)).