

## COTTER RYAN CONSTRUCTION

Cotter Ryan Construction is a Longwood, Fla.-based construction manager, specializing in the commercial sector.



# Cotter: Community Player

Using a team-build approach on its projects, Cotter Ryan Construction provides clients with turnkey building solutions and supports communities throughout Central Florida in the process.

BY BROOKE KNUDSON

Cotter Ryan Construction founder and President Scott Ryan says one of the reasons behind the contractor's continued success in Central Florida is that it not only knows how to build a good commercial product, but it knows how to help its clients navigate the business of project delivery. The firm specializes in new commercial projects and renovations including general and medical office buildings, warehouses, apartments, schools, churches and retail and restaurant facilities.

Ryan founded Cotter Ryan Construction in 1993, adding the "Cotter" to the company name in honor of a lifelong

friend. He started the business after gaining experience working on commercial projects for large general contractors such as Barton Malow and Federal Construction. "I started my own company in 1993 with the logic that since I had been in the industry and had a strong background in the operations side of the business, that I was driven to own my own company.

"When I went to Federal Construction, I got a lot of exposure in medical and general office building and education and I never really looked back," he explains.

Based in Longwood, Fla., Cotter Ryan serves a five-county area in Central Florida.

Although Florida was one of the states hit hardest by the sub-prime mortgage crisis and the residential downfall that ensued, Ryan says the downturn has lessened the work force shortage.

"Five years ago, it was hard to find trades to do the job," Ryan maintains. "Now, there are a lot of available trades looking for work and crossing the line between residential and commercial."

That's good news for Cotter Ryan, which completes up to \$15 million in projects annually. "There is enough work to keep us busy here," he says. But that's not to say the region doesn't have its challenges, he notes.

Challenges in the credit market have owners tapering off on the number of new commercial projects being built today. "As far as I'm concerned, it has slowed down a bit, but it has to do with the credit market," Ryan notes. "It has

Cotter Ryan Construction  
[www.cotterryan.com](http://www.cotterryan.com)

HQ: Longwood, Fla.

Employees: 15

Services: Construction management

Scott Ryan, founder and president: "Rather than talking only bricks and sticks, we can talk about other obstacles developers face and help them."