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Contact: Stacey A. Ober
703-684-2815

Five Public Procurement Agencies Recognized for Commitment to Qualifications-Based Selection

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (June 13, 2013) – The National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Council of Engineering Companies have recognized the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) as the 2013 Qualifications-Based Selection Award winner.

MWAA was selected for its efforts to serve the public interest by selecting engineering service firms based on their professional qualifications, past contract experience, specialized experience, and technical competence. The use of qualifications-based selection helps to ensure that projects are designed in a manner that is safe, innovative, environmentally sound, and cost-effective over a project's life cycle.

MWAA's selection procedure has been used successfully since 1987 and closely follows their contracting manual. A price proposal is requested only after the top-ranked firm is selected. At that time the contracting officer prepares an RFP to solicit a price proposal for analysis and negotiation of the firm's proposal. The contracting officer's goal is to reach a contractual agreement with the highest ranking firm. If in the judgment of the contracting officer, a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the top-ranked offer, MWAA will terminate negotiations and proceed to issue an RFP to the next-highest ranked firm. MWAA's procurement process represents an exemplary model of what NSPE and ACEC promote as qualifications-based selection.

The Hawaii State Procurement Office; the Town of Bryant, IN; the State of Delaware Facilities Management; and the City of Baton Rouge, LA, received the 2013 QBS Merit Awards for their commitment to qualifications-based selection (QBS) in the procurement of A/E services as well. The ACEC-NSPE QBS Awards Program was established to recognize public agencies that make exemplary use of the QBS process at the state and local level. In turn, the QBS Award winners provide examples of how well the QBS process works, and helps ACEC and NSPE promote the practice of QBS in states that are not currently using, or are underutilizing, QBS for the procurement of engineering services.

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The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority will be recognized for its outstanding QBS methods at NSPE's 2013 Annual Meeting on July 19. This year's Merit Award winners will be recognized at local events organized by their NSPE state societies and their ACEC member organizations. For more information on the award, contact Arielle Eiser at aeiser@nspe.org, or visit www.nspe.org/InterestGroups/PEPP/Resources/Awards/qbs_award.html.

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The National Society of Professional Engineers is the national society of licensed professional engineers from all disciplines that promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering, advocates licensure, and enhances the image and well-being of its members. Founded in 1934, NSPE serves more than 35,000 members and the public through 53 state and territorial societies and just over 400 chapters. For more information, please visit www.nspe.org.

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing over 5,000 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, water and energy infrastructure, along with environmental, industrial and other public and private facilities. Founded in 1909 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.

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