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## **Bulletin to Members: Infrastructure Ontario Renewal of Real Estate Vendor of Record System**

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Infrastructure Ontario's (IO) Real Estate Division has issued a renewal of its Vendor of Record (VOR) for engineering and technical services.

The system will create a new pre-qualified list of firms that will be eligible to provide services to the agency and its project management service providers (PMSPs). Firms interested in qualifying for the VOR have the opportunity to submit a request for proposal via Biddingo until June 8, 2017. Those firms selected to be on the VOR list will be eligible to be invited to submit responses to agency bid call documents for specific assignments. All firms currently on the agency's VOR must apply to be included on the VOR list.

The agency will be extending its current VOR Master Agreement terms and conditions beyond the July 1, 2017 expiration date. This is being done to provide an opportunity to evaluate terms and conditions of the new Master Agreement. Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) has been assured by agency staff that the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement will be made available for its review and feedback. The agency has also assured CEO that earlier concerns over language contained in the current Master Agreement empowering it to summarily terminate contracts with vendors on the suspicion of fraudulent practices have been properly addressed.

### **Details of the of the Renewed VOR**

#### **The Master Agreement**

Firms selected to be on the agency vendor list will be required to enter in to a Master Agreement with IO. The agreement will be issued for a three-year term with the agency having the option to exercise two one-year extensions, at its discretion.

Vendors invited to respond to bid call documents will have to enter into a project agreement with the agency's PMSP. These agreements will be agency-modified versions of the ACEC-31 Standard Agreement for Engineering Services, containing comprehensive supplementary conditions. Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) is continuing its negotiations of this agreement's supplementary conditions with the agency.

#### **Provincial vs. Regional Lists**

The agency's renewed Vendor of Record (VOR) for Engineering and Technical Services Firms is replacing the past practice of keeping regional lists in favour of one provincial list of firms.



Recognizing that professional and consulting services are not constrained by geography such as contracting and other construction-related services, the agency is implementing a province-wide approach for its VOR in an effort to more equitably offer opportunities to firms. It is the intention that a single list will be easier to administer, with more streamlined and efficient processes.

### **Streamlining of Service Categories**

Supporting the intent to streamline the VOR process, the renewed system reduces the number of specific engineering and technical services categories to six from ten.

Under the renewed VOR, firms will qualify under the following service categories:

- |                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| i. Structural   | iv. Civil                     |
| ii. Mechanical  | v. Building science           |
| iii. Electrical | vi. Environmental engineering |

Services previously included under the past VOR, namely; geotechnical, fire and life safety, commissioning, and security and IT/telecommunications when necessary may be procured separately as needed on specific projects. Alternatively, Qualified Engineers may be requested to subcontract for these services as part of their assignments.

### **Qualifying as a Prime Consultant**

The RFP for the new VOR provides consulting firms the opportunity to qualify as prime consultants for project assignments. Such firms would be able to sub-contract, manage, oversee and coordinate project work from other engineers.

### **Adding and Removing Vendors**

The new VOR system will see the agency update its list annually every April through 2020 via an RFP. This will allow for firms not on the VOR the opportunity to qualify on a regular basis. Additionally, the new VOR system will enable the agency to remove vendors from its list. This will be done as a result of: vendor's failure to meet program qualifications; a firm's consistent choice not to respond to invitations for project work; firms engaging in unethical or fraudulent behaviour; or, firms voluntarily seeking to be removed from the VOR list.

Additional details about the Vendor of Record Renewal can be found at:

[www.infrastructreontario.ca/VOR-Renewal-2016-17](http://www.infrastructreontario.ca/VOR-Renewal-2016-17)

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