

“QBS Processes for Selection of Architectural and Engineering Services”

On December 2, 2010, QBS Colorado presented a 2-hour overview of the use of the QBS process to the Rocky Mountain Government Purchasing Association during its Winter Meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. The meeting was held at the Hilton Antlers Inn. The presenters included:

- Andrew Garner, PE – Andy is the QBS Board Representative for CAGE and did a great job wrapping up the presentation.
- Ceila Rethamel, PE – Ceila is one of the ACEC QBS Board Representatives and also did a wonderful job addressing questions and concerns during the wrap up presentation, along with Andy.
- Michael Fink, PE – Mike is an NSPE QBS Board Representative and was the third presenter. Mike discussed several projects by the City of Fountain which have successfully used the QBS process, both for A/E firms and for Construction firms.
- Owen Randall, PE – Owen is a strong advocate for the QBS process and was the second speaker. Owen is a senior project manager for the City of Fort Collins Utilities, specializing in water, waste water and drainage projects. They have been using the QBS process for both A/E selection and for building a strong project team including the selected Contractor/Construction Manager. He is able to speak directly to the interest and concerns of other municipal agencies.
- Daniel Akin, PE-PLS – Dan was then the Vice Chairman for QBS Colorado, and represents NSPE and is a former representative for ACEC, and was the kick-off speaker. Dan discussed the basics of QBS including major definitions and the key steps to include in the process. He also fielded several probing questions about price considerations, scope definition and related issues.

The gathering was attended by approximately 100 purchasing representatives from all over Colorado. The presentation was coordinated with the event program chair, Traci Gorman, a purchasing representative for Arapahoe County. At the conclusion of the presentation, approximately 40 CD's were distributed to attendees. The CD's contained a wealth of information about the QBS process, including electronic versions of the “Successful Projects” workbook/binder, the recently completed “Small Projects with QBS” brochure, and many other useful materials. These materials are also available on the *new* QBS Colorado web site, www.qbscolorado.org.

The presentation was very well received and helped to address common concerns of many attendees regarding ultimate value being delivered using QBS, where price is not part of the initial selection process.

The several PowerPoint presentations used during this event have been posted on the QBS Colorado website and may be downloaded or viewed.

Save the Date ~ October 4, 2011 ~ Using QBS for Design-Build Projects

QBS will be presenting our bi-annual breakfast forum. This forum will show how the principles of QBS have been recently used on some of the most notable projects in Colorado. Attendees will understand how constructors and designers have used QBS to partner in a competitive design-build procurement selection process. Invited speakers will discuss QBS for public schools, government, transportation, and high performance projects. QBS is a nationally recognized process that advocates the selection of professional services based on qualifications and experience, providing the best value for clients in terms of quality and cost. For more information, or to make a reservation, contact Sue Bertram at the QBS Colorado office (sue@bertramlaw.net). You can also visit our website at www.qbscolorado.org. This forum will be offered for a small fee and will count towards continuing education credits.

Spotlight on Larry Friedberg, AIA

Did you know that Colorado has its very own State Architect? His name is Larry Friedberg and he is a true friend and supporter of QBS Colorado. Larry has held the position of State Architect for over 16 years and is primarily responsible for the administration of State funded Capital Construction and Controlled Maintenance projects at all state agencies and institutions of higher education. He recommends the annual statewide Controlled Maintenance Budget to the Governor's Office and the Capital Development Committee of the State Legislature.

Among many other duties Larry also administers the Emergency Controlled Maintenance Fund; implements the selection process for design and construction services; establishes minimum building codes, negotiates leases on behalf of the State and establishes standard contract language. Prior to accepting the State Architect position he was the In-House Architect and Facility Manger for University Hospital at the former University of Colorado's Health Sciences Center and was a practicing Architect with firms including Johnson/Hopson & Partners in Denver and Skidmore Owings and Merrill in Chicago. Larry has been a member of the American Institute of Architects since 1980 and currently is a member of AIA Colorado's Board of Directors.

Missouri Society Closes QBS Loophole

When leaders of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers discovered that a low-bid procurement process was used to award a contract to a subconsultant on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project, they took immediate action. An MSPE outreach campaign to the Corps and members of Congress proved to be effective in defending the use of qualifications-based selection procurement process for federal projects.

MSPE received notice in April that a land surveyor services contract for a project in the Corps' Kansas City District project was awarded based on low-bid. The project involves environmental cleanup at the former Kirksville Air Force Station in Greentop, Missouri. Ben Ross, P.E., MSPE's immediate past president, contacted the Corps to inquire why qualifications-based selection was not used on a federal project. A Corps attorney informed Ross that qualifications-based selection procurement was not required with awarding a lower tier subcontract.

Unsatisfied with this response, MSPE executive leadership contacted U.S. Rep Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) and U.S. Senators Kit Bond (R-MO) and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) in May to ask for assistance in closing the loophole that allows the use of low-bid procurement to award professional services contracts to subconsultants.

Following an immediate inquiry from the offices of Luetkemeyer and Skelton regarding the loophole, the Corps office conducted further investigation about the process used to award the contract. In June, Col. Roger Wilson, the Kansas City District commander, informed Luetkemeyer that the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (also known as the Superfund Law) requires the use of qualifications-based selection to award contracts to subconsultants on particular types of environmental remediation projects. As a result of this provision, the Corps voided the contract and required the contractor to use qualifications-based selection to procure services for the project.

MSPE received assistance from Arthur Schwartz, NSPE's general counsel, and the Council on the Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services. COFPAES is sponsored by NSPE, the American Congress on Surveying & Mapping, the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors.

NSPE supports the Brooks A/E Act of 1972, which requires federal agencies to use qualifications-based selection procedures when obtaining design professional services. NSPE also supports the adoption of "mini-Brooks" laws at the state and local levels.

QBS Colorado CDs now available!

Qualifications Based Selection Reference materials to go! Many of the items found on our website including the *Successful Projects Notebook*, forms, previous Forum presentations and reference materials are now available on CD. To obtain your copy email your request to Sue Bertram at sue@bertramlaw.net.

QBS Colorado Directors

QBS Colorado is an organization supported by AIA-CO, ACEC-CO, NSPE-CO and PLSC to be an advocate for qualifications-based selection of professional services. "The mission of QBS Colorado is to promote quality and value in professional design services in the construction industry. We believe that a professional and constructive relationship between the government client and design professional is paramount to ensuring team spirit, quality services, and a public building that is a credit to your organization and the citizens you serve."

QBS best serves the interest of the public who expect value and minimum operational and lifecycle costs for their tax dollar expended on public works and buildings.

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Our Website Has Moved!
www.QBSColorado.org

"The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits." ~ Albert Einstein

QBS Colorado now has a presence on LinkedIn! Now you can network with us on our LinkedIn page.

You can keep tabs on our advocacy efforts, follow discussions, ask questions, and even join in on the conversation. Become a member of our Group today.

Look for us at <http://www.linkedin.com>