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DATE: September 24, 2009

VICTORIA, BC – A new construction bidding system launched today promises to help streamline the procurement process in British Columbia’s construction industry while increasing fairness and transparency for contractors and owners alike. The BCCA Electronic Bidding System (EBS) also allows contractors to “green” their operations.

EBS is an electronic system for the reception of secured bids from trade contractors to enable those receiving the bids to obtain firm quotations in writing and in adequate time to compile their general contractor bids completely and accurately. EBS was developed in concert BCCA’s Regional Associations and their technology partner, Infinite Source. It is an adjunct to the Electronic Planroom services offered through the Regional Construction Associations.

“The on-line system was developed to provide a number of advantages to the industry,” says Keith Sashaw, VRCA President. “It substantially reduces the potential for bidders to submit non-compliant bids; it allows general contractors to receive the bids in an efficient electronic format that allows a quicker more reliable method of analyzing the bids and; it reduces the impact on the environment by decreasing the use of paper and the carbon foot print from vehicles used to transport bids.”

EBS will initially be implemented for use on public projects that specify the use of Bid Depository. The System will provide buyers of construction services with a sustainable business practice which will enhance their ability to address environmental concerns. Public bodies will soon recognize EBS as a means of addressing the pursuit of lowering greenhouse gas emissions and a practical approach to mitigating risk to the environment.

Manley McLachlan, President of the B.C. Construction Association, sees this as the final step in creating a truly electronic bidding and procurement process for BC. “Bidding documents and the submission of bids were the only components of the construction procurement transaction chain that were not being managed through on-line systems currently in use. In an effort to ‘close the loop’ BCCA developed the Electronic Bidding System,” he says. “We expect this to be the bidding method of choice for contractors in the near future.”

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