
SAO e-news
Office of the State Architect / Columbus, Ohio March 2004

Inside this issue:

1. Brainstorming at SAO
2. EDGE Update
3. Registrations Open for SAO College Spring Semester 2004
4. Link to the March 2004 Ohio Register

1. Brainstorming at SAO

SAO is considering a few ideas related to construction contract bidding opportunities and construction document updating. We've presented two ideas below. We'd appreciate receiving your thoughts on these ideas. Please write us a note or send an e-mail to angela.carder@das.state.oh.us. Your comments and suggestions can help us make our processes as beneficial as possible, for as many of our customers as possible.

Idea 1: Issue bid documents (e.g., forms, Front End, drawings, specs) on compact disk

Currently this idea is still in the concept stage at SAO, but the technology is available within our industry to turn this into an everyday reality. Using this concept, Bidders could receive the same documents they normally receive during the bidding phase, but they would simply be on a compact disk (CD). Holders of CDs could also print documents as needed. These e-documents could be viewed on a computer screen or printed in part or in total. Some file formats are available that allow the computer operator to view, but not alter, the document content. The e-document distribution may develop as an option for those that wish to use it. Under the proposed system, bids would still be submitted in paper form.

Idea 2: Consolidate Addenda information for updated Construction Documents

This may sound like a strange idea. It is; but we think it will work, for those who are willing to accept it. Here's the plan. As soon as practical after bidding and the construction team is determined, but before the construction notice to proceed is issued, the Associate or the designer-of-record would update the Construction Documents by blending all the updates that have occurred during the bid cycle. Upon completing the revisions, the updated Construction Documents could be printed for use on the project. The documents would not have "new" information, rather, they would have the same information shown on the documents in a consolidated form. The Associate already performs this as a service under our standard agreement; however, it is scheduled to happen during the construction administration phase.

2. EDGE Update

The State Architect's Office recently hosted a working session with the incoming chapter presidents, vice presidents and executive officers of many local and state chapters of the professional engineering organizations and the American Institute of Architects. The group gathered to hear the latest news in the development process for the state's new program designed for Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity in the state's vast procurement and services sector. In addition to their active role in a lively question and answer series, the group provided insight and perspective from their constituents. The SAO will use this valuable information in its continuing development of the EDGE segments for the design and construction industry. While some of the ideas were contradictory, many may be incorporated into the rules that are now being drafted.

The program, modeled after the federal government program for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, is intended to give assistance to firms that have a geographic or a social disadvantage. EDGE is a race-and gender-neutral goals-oriented program.

An update on the EDGE program will be presented at the sessions of SAO College in April.

The State of Ohio does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or in the provision of services. Any complaint involving discrimination shall be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Center. AN-1

3. Registrations Open for SAO College Spring Semester 2004

SAO College Spring Semester 2004 sessions are slated for April 8 at Cleveland State University, April 20 at the Sharonville Convention Center in Northern Cincinnati and April 28 at the Columbus Marriott Northwest in Dublin.

Sponsored by the State Architect's Office (SAO), SAO College provides an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn more about the SAO process and the management of state projects.

Seminar graduates may be awarded up to 6.5 learning units from the American Institute of Architects, the Ohio Construction Industry Examination Board or the Society for Marketing Professional Services.

Funding sources for state employees interested in attending the seminar include the Workforce Development program for eligible members of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association and the Exempt Professional Development Program for eligible exempt employees.

The seminar agenda and online registration can be found at:

<http://www.gsd.das.ohio.gov/sao/saoregistration.htm>. The registration fee is \$175 per person. For more information contact Angela Carder of SAO at angela.carder@das.state.oh.us.

4. Link to the March 2004 Ohio Register The March 2004 Ohio Register has been posted to the Internet and can be viewed and printed at: <http://www.gsd.das.ohio.gov/sao/orb.html>.

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