

## NEW CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (MBEs)

If you perform architectural, engineering or other consultant services related to design and construction, have some experience performing these services for institutional clients or comparable commercial clients, and are a "minority owned business enterprise" as that term is defined by Connecticut statute, you may be interested in new contracting opportunities at the State Department of Construction Services ("DCS").

### What are the New Opportunities and the Timelines?

In June 2013, DCS will be advertising Requests for Qualifications ("RFQs") for two new On-Call Consultant contracts: On-Call Architect - Minor Capital Projects; and On-Call Civil Engineering - Minor Capital Projects. These two new On-Call contracts, for projects having a total budget of two million dollars or less, will encompass a wide array of projects from commercial-type space modifications in existing state buildings to the design of new structures to be located on state property. **Both of these contracts will be completely set aside for participation by Minority Business Enterprises ("MBE") that are certified by the State Department of Administrative Services ("DAS").** Prior to the Request for Qualifications being issued in June, potential applicants are being given several weeks to secure their MBE certifications.

In addition to the two new On-Call Consultant contracts, DCS has established a new policy to increase MBE participation on all its other On-Call Consultant contracts. This new policy will impact the other On-Call Consultant contracts as each contract expires and DCS advertises RFQs for a new list of consultants. Please click [here](#) to see the list of all DCS On-Call Consultant contracts, with anticipated advertisement dates.

It is critical that all companies seeking to be considered as a minority business enterprise have a current, valid MBE certification from DAS before they submit qualifications in response to the RFQs for both the new On-Call contracts and any other On-Call contract.

### How to Get MBE Certified

DCS encourages any qualified consultant firm that is not yet certified with DAS as an MBE to apply as soon as possible for certification. You may do so by contacting the DAS Supplier Diversity Office at 860-713-5236, or by visiting the DAS website at <http://das.ct.gov/cr1.aspx?page=34>

## **How to Sign Up for Email Notifications for New Contract Opportunities**

DCS posts all its contract opportunities on the State Contracting Portal. The State has an "E-Alert" system that sends daily emails to individuals and companies that subscribe to the system, announcing new procurement solicitations and addendums that have been posted on the State Contracting Portal. Therefore, if you sign up for the E-Alerts, you should receive an electronic notification, via email, when the RFQs are posted seeking consultants for DCS On-Call Consultant contracts. Sign up for E-Alerts by following the directions provided here: <http://das.ct.gov/cr1.aspx?page=161>

Because email can be unreliable, please be sure that you also check the DCS website frequently, so that you have timely knowledge of any new advertisements that are posted.

## **How to Find Out More about the New DCS On-Call Contracts**

Go to the [DCS website](#) to find additional information about new opportunities for certified MBEs, including the new DCS Consultant Diversity Policy, information about the two new On-Call consultant contracts (MBE only), and other important links.

Should you have any questions regarding the RFQ and QBS process, please contact Randy Daigle at 860-713-5696. For questions regarding the MBE Certification process, please contact Meg Yetishefsky at 860-713-5228.