



For immediate release
Jan. 7, 2008

Contact:
John McKeon
703-677-3361
jmckeon@cmaanet.org

Smithsonian, Delaware Agency Formalize Preference for CCMs

Two more major owners of ongoing construction programs have formalized their preference to work with Certified Construction Managers (CCMs) by adding language to their Request for Proposal documents stipulating that CCM services should be included in bids.

The Smithsonian Institution, whose construction plans for the near future include a new Museum of African American History and Culture, plus major improvements to the National Zoo, the Smithsonian Center for Environmental Research and other key facilities, now urges firms responding to its solicitations to include CCMs on their proposed project teams.

The newly revised Request for CM Services from the Smithsonian now describes the kinds of professional personnel bidders will be expected to provide, and states:

“The evaluation of these disciplines will consider education, training, overall and relevant experience and longevity with the firm. To this end, all respondent CM firms are strongly encouraged to provide staff certified as ‘construction managers’ by the Construction Manager Certification Institute sponsored by the CMAA.”

Robert Fraga, AIA, director of the Office of Contracting at the Smithsonian, explained that “the Institution adopted CMAA's CCM certification for consultant services because this designation is the gold standard in the industry for professional construction management. Hiring CCMs assures an owner that the individuals with this designation have the knowledge, experience and integrity needed to manage projects and programs in today's complex environment.”

Also late in 2007, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission officially recognized the CCM as an acceptable credential for prospective project managers and resident engineers.

Responding to questions about a current bid solicitation, the Commission stated, “CCM (Certified Construction Manager), as issued by the Construction Management Certification Institute, is acceptable in lieu of a P.E. or RA/AIA license requirements for the Project Manager and the Resident Engineer.”

Other prominent construction owners that have previously adopted similar formal recognition of the CCM include the Los Angeles Unified School District, the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers, the U.S. General Services Administration, the University of Texas and the metropolitan transit systems in New York City and Washington, DC.

In addition, the CCM program has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

As of the end of 2007, 970 individuals had been designated Certified Construction Managers. Complete information about the CCM program is available at www.cmaanet.org/cmci.

About CMCI

The Construction Manager Certification Institute (CMCI) is an independent administrative body of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA). The Institute is governed by a Board of Governors and is comprised of CM professionals who are responsible for policies and procedures affecting criteria for professional certification and the determination of individual certification status of candidates enrolled in the CM Certification Program.

About CMAA

CMAA is North America's only organization dedicated exclusively to the interests of the professional construction and program management industry. On behalf of its twenty-five regional chapters and more than 4,700 public and private firms and individuals throughout the nation, CMAA promotes the construction management industry and provides professional resources, advocacy, professional development, certification, and business opportunities to its members. CMAA's national headquarters is located in McLean, Virginia and the Association's website is www.cmaanet.org.

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