

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

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DATE 24 September 1996

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
 Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **REGIONAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
DELEGATED AUTHORITY LIMITS**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and Council approve the revised delegated authority limits outlined in this report for the award of supply and construction contracts for the Regional Radio Communications System Project.

BACKGROUND

A new radio communication system is required by the expanded police service, RMOC and other public service agencies to replace several existing outdated, unreliable and overloaded systems. The new system will provide complete radio coverage throughout the entire Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton through a network of 18 linked transmitter/receiver sites and the communications centre at police headquarters.

This project is a key element required for the success of the new amalgamated police service and thus an aggressive schedule targeting completion for the Summer of 1997 has been set to ensure all police services are operating on one communications system as soon as possible to best serve the public's safety.

RATIONALE

Several alternative methods for tendering the construction of the site development work for the 18 sites required in this project were reviewed and analyzed to determine the best approach for the RMOC. These included a design build approach, a standard large project/general contractor approach and a construction management approach. After careful review and consultation with other municipalities who have recently carried out similar projects, staff are recommending a construction management approach whereby the site development work is broken into multiple smaller tender packages for supply of equipment and construction by various trades. This approach allows the flexibility of tendering work as it is designed without waiting for all aspects of all sites to be designed before tendering in a large package. The multiple tender approach also means considerable cost savings as it avoids the general contractor mark-ups that occur when projects are done as one large contract. This cost savings was verified conclusively by The Region of Halton who tendered the work both ways and found the construction management approach to be considerably more cost effective.

Having decided on this construction management/multiple tender approach, staff are currently preparing designs and specifications with the assistance of a communications consultant and a civil/structural consultant, for the various tender packages. A preliminary list of the approximate tender categories proposed for the site development work includes the following: ground tower construction, building-mounted tower construction, shelter supply, generator supply, radio and circuit links supply, antenna and cable supply, electrical site work, civil works, (roads and underground services), fencing, security system installation, building structural modifications and reinforcement, roofing repairs, crane rental and Communication Centre renovations.

NEW DELEGATED AUTHORITY LIMITS

In order to meet the aggressive schedule laid out for this project and manage this number of tenders in an efficient manner, staff are recommending a modification to the standard delegated authority limits where the Department Head authority to award contracts based on three quotations would rise from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The Chief Administrative Officer's existing authority to award contracts within budget estimate and with no irregularities would continue for all contracts over \$150,000.

This change will greatly improve contract award efficiency for smaller project tender categories while maintaining the full public advertisement and committee/council award process for the larger contracts. The Legal Department has been consulted in the establishment of these limits.

Similar modifications to delegated authority limits for a specific project were made for the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre construction project and the Ottawa-Carleton Centre, Regional Headquarters Project.

CONSULTATION

Public consultation is not required for revision of delegated authority limits.

FINANCIAL JUSTIFICATION

The proposed revisions to delegated authority limits in this report will greatly improve time lines for tendering the multiple contracts required for this project. With these modifications, the current aggressive schedule will have a better chance of being achieved.

*Approved by J. Miller
on behalf of M. J. E. Sheflin*

PRM/jb