

Distribution Underground (DUCT) Construction

Contractor Engagement Event Discussion Summary – Lower Mainland - Dec 13 2017

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SAFETY

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
(Points highlighted in presentation)	Acceptable COR equivalencies are ISO 50001 and Forestry Safe. The Intent to become COR certified is acceptable for the purposes for the RFP but there will be timelines associated with this, and mitigations in place where Contractors fail to meet agreed upon timelines / commitments. Note that the process to gain certification for small companies and larger companies is different.	
Do all sub-Contractors have to have COR?	No, but the Contractor will be accountable to manage any subs to meet (or exceed) and standards BC Hydro expects of their general Contractors. It would be wise to work with COR certified sub-Contractors but we recognize this as potentially being unrealistic and thus, BC Hydro will not be enforcing it as a requirement.	
What is the required timeline for those that intend to obtain COR certification	It is not defined at this time, but likely it will entail having started the process at the time of RFP submission. There will be a mechanism developed to assess both COR certified Contractors and those that intend to obtain it.	Define required timeline for those that intend to obtain COR certification. Develop evaluation criteria to assess both pools of candidates.
What are the reporting expectations with this contract?	There are many layers of reporting for this contract including but not limited to safety, quality control etc. More information will be provided in the RFP.	
Is BC Hydro ISNET certified and will the selected Contractor have to be ISNET certified also?	BC Hydro does not recognize ISNET certification to gauge Contractor qualification.	
Is there expected safety training and or requirements such as PSSP?	All employees of the successful Contractor will require PSSP Cat2/3 training. This is limited to employees working in proximity to our system and does not include office staff/ delivery drivers etc. PSSP Training for contractors is delivered by the Electrical Energy Training Group (EETG). Please contact EETG directly to schedule training.	

QUESTION / COMMENT
BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK
BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)

Contact Information for Electrical Energy Training Group:
 Phone: 1-877-859-8228 EXT #1 for PSSP Training
 E-mail: registration@eetg.ca

QUALITY
QUESTION / COMMENT
BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK
BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)

Will developing a Quality Control program be part of the RFP submission or will that be a requirement after the Award?

There will be a section in the RFP that will ask you to demonstrate your QC processes, but individual QC programs will not be evaluated. Section W of the ES-54 (which was included in the handouts) outlines our QC expectations from the contractor/customer

How will the QC component be weighted? What %?

This is not yet determined, but will be provided in the RFP.

Develop evaluation criteria and weightings

You mentioned standardized reporting. After the contract is awarded, will the successful Contractor be provided with a method?

The concept here is to have the Contractor propose their quality reporting method. We have our standards, to which the product must be built, but how you report/prove the quality is up to the Contractor.

Confirm how to articulate QA / QC hold points in RFP

Is there a standard that a Contractor could build a QC program towards?

A document describing how to navigate to the ES54 standards, and geotechnical requirements, will be provided in our follow up message. How you provide proof you maintain that standard will be expected in the RFP, but there is no template to provide this proof

Links to be provided in follow up email

How do we ensure the quality of the product that BC Hydro supplies?

BC Hydro has a material QC system managed by Engineering. All of the pre-cast products that BC Hydro supplies are QC'd prior to shipment. Once the contractor/courier picks up the material from our supplier, they are responsible for the integrity of the product throughout its installation. Products that are damaged after ownership is transferred from our supplier to the contractor is the responsibility of the contractor to replace. Section 15 of the COWS 1322 outlines the responsibility of the

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	contractor when they pickup material supplied by BC Hydro. It has been QA'd by our supplier before issuing to the contractor and once the contractor accepts the material they are responsible for its care and integrity. The contractor is also responsible for returning unused material within 72 hours of job completion and is responsible for the cost of replacing material that is compromised after their acceptance and during the installation/transport.	
Where can we find standards for geotechnical requirements?	ES-54 Section U outlines the geotechnical requirements from a design perspective. COWS 1322 Section 6 mentions geotech info supplied for the site by BC Hydro	

UNITS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
Will a Unit List be provided with each drawing that is sent out?	Yes and the Contractor will have an opportunity to review and suggest changes	
Will all known utilities be included in a work package?	Yes, all 'known' utilities will be, be extenuating circumstances are expected and there will be mechanisms to manage this (i.e. Change orders).	
Will the BC-ONE call be done by BC Hydro or the Contractor?	BC Hydro will do the initial call to determine what needs to be in the work order, but the Contractor will be expected to refresh the call / scope prior to digging.	
A lot of work in Vancouver requires coordination with the Vancouver Police Department, how will this be addressed?	An approach will be developed and if you have ideas we are open to them. Coordination work will also be necessary with transit, municipalities etc.	Develop approach for coordinated services.
There is often confusion about specification requirements between Vancouver City and BC Hydro. How will this be addressed?	Specific issues in regions are an important consideration in the bid. The wording around compliance with Municipalities and Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is in the Class of Work Section 5. Additionally, Section W (provided in handouts) contains the definition of AHJ which speaks to the hierarchy of whom has the authority	

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Is the Contractor responsible for lane permits, traffic management plans etc.?	Yes, this will be reflected in the Unit price.	
What is the average time between a work order being issued and work starting? Will consideration be given to the fact that permits often have their own timelines?	BC Hydro recognizes that permit delays can be an issue so although timelines will be expected, firm timelines is not in place. If delays are incurred, new dates can be proposed by the Contractor.	
How can we propose a Unit price for a region if delays vary in various municipalities?	The intent is that the contractor is knowledgeable of the municipalities in their region and submits a unit price for the region not for each municipality	
Will different regions have different units?	No. Considerations need to be made for the regions you are bidding in. For example, Richmond work will often require shoring whereas North Shore work will often not. Shoring is considered an operational expense / overhead that needs to be included in the Unit price.	
Will there be a unit for extra excavation?	Yes.	
Will travel units not be based on time?	Travel unit will compensate for time and distance travelled.	
What will the travel unit cover? Crews? Machinery?	The travel unit is a flat price for the mobilization and return for any job.	
Will the travel unit be applied on a daily basis if numerous days are required?	In these cases, a Living Out Allowance will be provided.	
How will units account for winter work / frozen ground / winter travel / maintenance?	We would expect an understanding of the region and the unit price to be bid that encompasses all cases, noting that there is often a shutdown period in generally colder regions.	
How will fuel be addressed?	We are anticipating there will be a fuel adjuster mechanism which will entail using a recognized index as a baseline and include a single yearly adjustment.	Confirm the use of a fuel adjuster mechanism in future contract.
Will there be a CPI (Consumer Price Index)?		BC Hydro will look into which / any indexes are useful in utilizing in the future contract.

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Will there be a section in the RFP that explains the differences between the current contract and the new one?	No.	
Can rates be reviewed when discussing contract extension options?	Contract rates and terms will be expected to stand during the 3 year term of the contract. Negotiations may occur if extension is exercised or when a new contract is introduced. BC Hydro recognizes that some extenuating circumstances may occur which could prompt a negotiation requirement but this will be on a case by case scenario.	
Why is the travel unit in 100km increments?	We are open to feedback on this issue. Some have suggested 50km increments.	Look into travel unit increments and propose adjustments if necessary.
Will flagging be a separate unit?	Traffic control units are currently being reviewed and we understand that the requirements are increasing. We are working to determine a balance, understanding that requirements can often be different between municipalities, within municipalities, internal policies and WorkSafe policies	Determine where traffic requirements should be incorporated in the unit or separated into its own unit.
When the RFP is posted, will all units be quantified?	There will be no forecast for how many of each unit will be required. Work orders will include projected units for each job	
When will the unit list be provided?	Before the end of December 2017.	
Will there be a TCP/LCT unit?	We will look at this.	Unit list review for TCP/LCT unit.

REGIONS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
What delineates the North Shore?	Lions Bay will be included in the North Shore, anything north of that will be the Whistler region. The Whistler region will include Squamish, Pemberton and likely extend to Darcy.	
So Vancouver will no longer be three	Yes, that is correct	

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regions as it is currently?		
What region will Langley belong to?	Fraser Valley East.	Determine exact regional boundaries for mapping.
What region will the Sunshine Coast fall under?	Currently there is not enough volume on the Sunshine Coast to require dedicated contract service. The work in this area will fall under Stage 2 – Pre-qualified Contractor List.	
Will all installations go through these Contractors?	Private work will continue to go through Builders. In these instances, Builders hire Contractors directly.	
What if a Contractor cannot handle all of the work for a region?	This will be an expectation set out in the RFP. Contractors will be required to demonstrate they have the capacity to perform all of the work and/or demonstrate how they will obtain the capacity.	
Will there still be a prime Contractor for the area?	We expect a single primary (not prime) contractor for each region. The primary contractor may sub-contract to any number of other contractors to meet our work volumes but the responsibility for the region is on the primary contractor	
Can a Contractor have more than one area?	Yes but there will be a limit.	Determine the limit of regions per Contractor.
If at times there are higher than expected volumes, will the Contractor be expected to delegate the additional work or will BC Hydro? And would all sub-Contractors have to be approved?	Yes, The expectation is the primary Contractor will receive the work and coordinate (and be accountable for) any sub-Contractors that are used to complete the work volumes.	
Will any BC Hydro crews be doing this work?	A small amount may be done by BC Hydro's Construction Services.	
Will Vancouver be broken up into different areas? For example, downtown core work can often be more expensive than outside of downtown	No, bidders are expected to provide a balanced price	
What will be the muster points for regions?	Muster points will be established for each region. Currently it is proposed that they will be the BC Hydro district office in the	Confirm how muster points will be determined un future contract.

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If a Contractor is based in Burnaby and is awarded the Whistler contract, will travel be applicable?	region or the office closest to the majority of the work. No, it is based on where the work is.	

GENERAL

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
(The group was asked if they feel this type of contract is 'doable').	General consensus by show of hands was yes.	
(The group was asked if this presentation and material was helpful).	Comment - The presentation has been good, but it does not seem to be the same in the field. Feedback - We are attempting to address challenges in the field with good contracts and good contract management	
Can you provide examples of the type of work this contract covers?	Maintenance, back bone installs of feeder network, small junction boxes, manholes, grounding, fixing crushed ducts, trouble related work (pilasters, dig-ins etc) non-standard installations as dictated by site conditions.	
How do you decide what gets tendered out and what is incorporated in the contract?	If other areas (than Maintenance work) in BC Hydro are able to unitize their scopes, it will be included in the contract. This intent will include larger projects too. We do not have a pre-determined \$ value for when work should be Unit Price vs. Tendered	
What is the value of this contract? 100K? 200K?	We are not comfortable putting a value on it at this time.	
Suggestion - could an escalation clause be implemented yearly?	An escalation clause will exist throughout the term of the contract but only to address extenuating circumstances.	
Could you clearly lay out what will be expected to secure the option to extend?	We do not have an answer for that at this time.	Define contract extension requirements.

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How will tolls be accounted for since we are unsure of the future direction?	New tolls would be considered an extenuating circumstance and could be addressed as needed.	
Will the RFP submission be a document only or will there be an opportunity for presentation or discussion?	Typically BCH uses document submissions and we expect to use this method for this RFP.	
Will the current ROC (Regional Optimized Contract) contract impact this contract	No, the current ROC for overhead lines will not impact this contract.	
As a newcomer to the market, advertising the term as 3+2+2 indicates that there is already a Contractor in mind, is there?	The purpose is to attract new Contractors with fresh perspectives, extensions are not guaranteed.	
How will contracts address the challenges associated with coordinating with other utilities such as Shaw and Telus?	This is the nature of the work, that should be understood. Collaboration and relationship building with your Contract Manager will be required.	
What other areas has this contract model been used?	We have used this for Distribution Line Contract for 5 years and it has been successful. Expectations are clearer and transparency is evident. It has also been used for our Vegetation contract. We are taking “the best parts” of those contracts to incorporate into the DUCt contract	
Was there a large disparity in pricing from those RFP submissions?	Yes	
Are certain standards available in order to ensure pre-qualification?	No, there are currently no industry wide standards of qualification. BC Hydro will be qualifying based on what we need. At this time we are requiring COR certification (or its equivalent) and an established/enforced drug & alcohol program	
Will the evaluation criteria and point scale be published?	The criteria will be based around price, quality, safety and past experience, etc. The weightings have not yet been determined,	

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	but will be included in the RFP.	
Will you accept Contractors that do not have past BC Hydro experience?	Yes, all civil underground construction experience for infrastructure utilities will be relevant.	
Can the question in the RFP be worded in a way that does not favor BC Hydro specific experience	Yes we can do that.	Ensure this is reflected in RFP.
Will there be a Union requirement?	No.	
Will there be any Bonding?	We don't know, will find out.	Determine if bonding required
Damage deposits are sometimes required, who will handle those?	We will determine.	Determine who will be responsible for damage deposits when and where required
Assuming BC Hydro has operating agreements with various municipalities, does that cover permit fees?	We aren't sure, will determine.	Investigate operating agreements and associated permit fees
Is the BC Hydro Act relevant right now?	BC Hydro is not bound by municipal rules but we try to adhere in good faith. As part of that, Contractors fall within the Act, and technically aren't required to secure permits, but there is more and more push back from municipalities. It is an ongoing discussion. Note that Contractors often pay anyways as they do other work within the municipality. The BC Hydro Act is there, it's important, but we prefer to negotiate.	
Will BC Hydro continue to provide survey and layout for each job?	Under the new contract, Contractors will be responsible for their own construction layout and surveyed (if required) as-built drawings proving their installations. This should be reflected in the unit pricing.	
Will the work order package come with coordinates and a CAD file? Or is a PDF/CSV/DWG the only thing that will be provided? We will require more info than is generally provided if we are to do our own surveys. Distances in particular are required to ensure we stay inside the	Currently, we do not provide CAD files. We need to check with the Legal Department to determine what we can provide. If drawings are missing relevant information, they should be sent back to Design.	Check with Legal department what additional information can be shared, if any.

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legal line corridor		
Regarding payments, once a work package is completed and sent back to BC Hydro, what will the time be between completion and payment date?	BC Hydro has a 30 day payment policy. We are currently facing challenges in our payment services and this has been identified as an area in need of improvement. We are currently working towards a 10-15 day turnaround.	
Who will be responsible for ironing out issues?	Contract Manager.	
Who will issuing work packages? They currently come from the Civil Inspector	We are moving to electronic issuing which will mean the Contractor and Civil Inspector are issued work simultaneously. At this point, discussion can take place.	
Will Hydro-Vac trucks & pole holds be on the Unit list?	There is an understanding that that type of work is required for civil work and is an operational cost and should be applied to all units. Comment from Contractors that is a good way to drive up unit prices.	
You are asking for a lot of allowances in unit pricing. There are too many variances to absorb into units	We are trying to find a balance of risk and administrative burden for both the Contractor and BC Hydro.	
What is a "typical" crew and equipment? It depends on what the work is	As long as the job gets built correctly, we do not have a preference or control over a "standard crew compliment". This will vary depending on complexity of job, ISD's and other factors that are solely under the control of the Contractor.	
What is the best way to address operational capacity since work comes in peaks and valleys?	We will take this back to the team.	Address fluctuation in work and required capacity.
(The group was asked for feedback on the conference call date)	Later in January seems to be preferred.	
Why is there such a delay in the decision making period for this RFP?	We will be developing detailed evaluation criteria and evaluating bids for the whole province. There is also some built in buffer time.	
Can you provide the historical annual spend, mapped by month, to indicate the peaks and valleys and work	We will look into that.	Determine if this information can be developed and provided in RFP.

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volumes?		
(The group was asked when the optimal time to post the RFP be and how much time was required)	It depends how large the document is Depends on scope of work & number of units. We will take as much time as we can get. Having the RFP come out in May, June or December is not overly practical for the industry 8 weeks on the market is too long.	Determine the best time for Contractors and BC Hydro to post future RFP.
When work is issued, will an expected completion date be included? Currently it does not.	Yes.	
If Hydro has an urgent need or short timeline, will a premium be offered?	Yes, there are two rates - one short cycle rate and a second planned work rate (the planned work rate is expected to be lower).	
Will you give a long term vision of the work?	It's tough to do as much of it is customer driven work.	
Because of customer driven work, what types of timelines will Hydro be offering to customers that the Contractors will be expected to meet	Customer expectations are typically managed up front by BC Hydro before work is issued to a Contractor.	
Will reporting requirements be outlined in the RFP?	We are not sure at this time.	Clarify what the reporting expectations are and what platforms the Contractor will be using to submit their reports
For trouble call outs, will additional time be given for next day scheduled work, as we may now need to provide rest to crews who worked overnight	We will look into this.	Review expectations for planned work
Are SCA's (Service Contract Administrators) the same as planners?	No.	
How will BCH manage the changing and different expectations of municipal permitting? (i.e. some require traffic management plans to	Complying with municipal and AHJ requirements is up to the contractor. We cannot determine what those requirements will be and we expect the contractor to be familiar with the regions they are bidding on.	

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be stamped that could take up to three months to acquire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COWS 1322 Section 5 & 9 cover the responsibility of the contractor as it relates to permitting, licensing and fees. • ES 54 Section W contains the definition for AHJ <p>However, sudden change within a municipality that creates a significant cost impact could be considered an extenuating circumstance</p>	
If BCH is not able to provide accurate demand forecasts, we will not be able to provide accurate and potentially competitive unit rates	We cannot provide demand forecasting on customer driven work. We may be able to provide historical customer driven work volumes, but that is not an indication of, or commitment to, future work volumes	
BCH needs to ensure all working standards are known upfront and agreed to before work begins	The two documents that outline our working standards are the Underground Civil Standards (ES-54) and Construction of Underground Electrical Distribution Structures by a BC Hydro Contractor (No. 1322 R10). I highly recommend that the contractors who are interested in submitting a proposal are intimately familiar with these documents prior to their submission	
Can BCH provide, as detailed as possible, QA standards in the RFP? This will provide a baseline of what BC Hydro is expecting in a QC plan	We are basing our QA/QC expectations off of the ES-54 and the COWS 1322	
Will BC Hydro provide guidelines on how BCH and Contractors can or cannot interact during the RFP? What information should/shouldn't be shared with all Contractors if one Contractor asks a question?	Yes we will provide instructions on how to interact during the RFP	