

## PARTNERS *in* PROGRESS

### Continuing Contracts: Good for Continuing Business

As a provider of professional engineering services for nearly 40 years, Ellis & Associates has been successfully awarded numerous annual contracts for services to area public agencies, including cities, counties and school boards in our Florida and Georgia locations. Our partners in progress, the agencies themselves, benefit from this format by pre-qualifying our professional engineers, our experience, and the qualifications of E&A to establish a contract mechanism that enables the agency to issue work to E&A on an as-needed basis. Such contracts are issued for an extended period, such as one year with renewal options each year for an additional two to four years.

Such a contract award process is governed by the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act (CCNA), Florida Statute 287.055, which requires the public agency to award a contract for professional services, such as engineering, based on the firms' qualifications only, not costs. Professional fees do not come into play until a consultant has been chosen, at which time contract terms are reviewed and agreed upon. What this process brings to the government agency is having the most qualified firms readily available for more typical services related to development and construction of roads, utilities, and public facilities. This contract format is advantageous for both the consultant and for the agency, establishing better working relationships that get the work done far more efficiently and expeditiously.

Mary Bowers of the Brevard County Facilities Department agrees. *"There are several advantages to continuing contracts. First, you have the luxury of reducing the procurement timeframe for needed services. Secondly, I believe that you build a special rapport with our consultants and contractors. These factors, alone, with the fast-track construction society we are living in, help streamline the design and construction process tremendously."*



### E&A'S PART IN PROGRESS

#### Current continuing service contracts awarded E&A:

- Brevard County Geotechnical Services (Hazardous materials included)
- Flagler County Geotechnical Services
- St. Johns County Environmental Services
- St. Johns County Geotechnical Services
- St. Johns County School District Geotechnical and Materials Testing Services
- District School Board of Putnam County, Engineering Services
- Volusia County Testing Services
- FDOT D2 Districtwide Geotechnical Services (VT)
- FDOT D2 Regional Geotechnical & Materials Testing Services
- FDOT D2 Districtwide CEI Materials Testing Services
- FDOT D5 Materials Testing/Geotechnical Continuing Services
- Daytona Beach Geotechnical/Environmental Services Contracts
- Deltona – On-call Geotechnical Services
- JEA Environmental Consulting Services
- Brevard County Public Schools, Geotechnical and Materials Testing Services
- Florida Dept. of Management Services, Geotechnical & Environmental Services
- Suwannee River Water Mgmt. District - Approved Environmental Auditor List
- City of Jacksonville – Countywide Contamination Assessment & Remediation

Some of the public agencies that have awarded continuing contracts to Ellis & Associates include the Florida Department of Transportation Districts 2 and 5, Brevard County, St. Johns County, Volusia County, the City of Jacksonville, Flagler County, and the City of Deltona, to name a few. A list of E&A continuing contracts is shown in the side-bar article "E&A's Part in Progress."

Over the term of a contract, a strong relationship between the agency project managers and E&A professionals is the long-term benefit. At E&A, we continually strive for customer satisfaction and fully understand that our service and our commitment result in new and renewed contracts. As a premier provider of integrated engineering services, we are very determined to maintain the highest attention to customer satisfaction and continue successful partnerships with the public agencies we serve.