TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

> "The contractors currently using the application love it! The solution speaks for itself."
>
> - Business Area Specialist TxDOT

SYNOPSIS

The Texas Department of (TxDOT), with an annual road and bridge construction budget between 4 and 6 billion dollars, expends significant resources each month in letting construction projects. In their ongoing effort to maximize budget resources and improve the efficiency of internal processes, TxDOT undertook an initiative to improve the interaction between the state DOT and its contractors for bid submission.

Errors in contractor-submitted bids were among the challenges with the current letting process, resulting in lost competition when submitted bids were declared "non-responsive". Mathematical miscalculations were also common leading to a number of non-responsive bids for each letting.

TxDOT's estimating, construction management, and electronic bidding systems were mainframe applications that were sufficient to meet the current needs. The bid submission process however, was in need of an overhaul and was the emphasis of the new initiative. In December 2005, TxDOT called for proposals designed to improve the bidding process in three key areas:

- Simplify the bid creation and submission process
- Improve the bid response rate
- Eliminate non-responsive bids

ExeVision's proposal included the Contractor's Desktop Application (CDA) and the iPD SecureVault™. The CDA provided a structured, computer-based environment where contractors prepared their bids, automatically received updated addenda on projects, and were assured that only "responsive" bids would be submitted. Contractors downloaded the CDA free-of-charge from the TxDOT or ExeVision website with updates to the CDA automatically received via the internet. The iPD SecureVault™ provided a third-party, secure solution to receive and hold bids until the date and time of bid opening. At the time of bid opening, all bids were delivered via a secure encrypted connection to the State for review, tabulation, and award.

An important feature for TxDOT was for the ExeVision solution to support third-party estimating software used by TxDOT contractors. Contractors were able to export a compatible bid item file, import the file into their estimating software, prepare their bid and import the bid item prices back into the CDA.

ExeVision also coordinated with the electronic bid bond clearing houses used by TxDOT contractors to obtain electronic bid bonds. After acquiring an electronic bid bond, contractors were required to validate the bid bond using the CDA before the final bid can be submitted.

In March 2007, after a competitive bid process, TxDOT awarded ExeVision a contract for the development and implementation of the iPD Contractor's Desktop Application and the iPD SecureVault . The solution went into live production in April of 2009, with just-in-time training of 2000 contractors at 6 locations statewide. In February of 2016, TxDOT upgraded the CDA with ExeVision's Web-based integrated Contractors Exchange (iCXWeb™).

The success of the project and implementation at TxDOT is evidenced by the fact that TxDOT has processed over $60 BILLION in bids since going live in 2009 and the iPD solution has required fewer than one hundred hours of total support and maintenance from ExeVision (less than 2 hours per month). In a recent bid letting of $158 million, NO technical support was required by ExeVision in support of the letting.

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iNTEGRATED CONTRACTORS EXCHANGE

The Contractor's Desktop Application (CDA), was the Client/Server solution for contractor bid preparation and submission originally implemented at TxDOT. Now called the Integrated Contractors Exchange (ICXWeb™), TxDOT implemented this completely new web application in February of 2016, simplifying the bidding process for contractors by facilitating the communication between the bidders and the state DOT, ensuring the creation of responsive bids, and providing "anytime, anywhere" browser access to the application by contractors.

Using this software, bidders prepare a complete electronic bid package including bid bonds, DBE commitments or Good Faith efforts, subcontract items, etc. The completed bid package is digitally signed and transmitted via the internet to the iPD SecureVault™ and held until the time specified for bid opening when the bids are transmitted to TxDOT's bid opening application. Bidders can submit their encrypted bid to the vault as many times as they wish up to the time of bid opening. The last bid submitted prior to the time of bid opening is the bid that will be opened.

One additional and very important benefit to TxDOT from the iCXWeb application is the elimination of contractor software downloads and the agency support that was required for Client/Server contractor software applications.

TxDOT System Requirements (partial)

- Web-based contractor bid preparation and submission
- Obtain bid item data
- Verify information is properly entered
- Digitally sign and submit bid item data to TxDOT
- Withdraw a bid previously submitted
- Receive electronic notification of addenda and obtain addenda data
- Submit a proposal guaranty or bid bond to TxDOT.
- Submit required Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) commitment or Good Faith Effort documentation
- Obtain assistance using EBS via a helpdesk
- Host the bidder's bid item data at the SecureVault until the time of bid opening
- Maintain a copy of the bid form signed by the contractor for non-repudiation purposes
- Verify the proposal guaranties

The iCXWeb implementation was acknowledged by the agency to be an "unqualified success" for both contractors and the agency. The agency expected single digit use of the new application on the first bid letting and was surprised when over 30% of the received bids were submitted electronically. After the first 3 lettings, over 60% of contractor bids were submitted electronically, and now, 95% of bid submissions are electronic.

"TxDOT conducted the largest single bid letting in the history of the State — $890 million — using the iPD bidding system. Not a hitch, not a hiccup and NO technical support required. To date, we've processed in excess of $60 billion in bids with ExeVision's bidding solutions with similar, outstanding results."

— **Manager of Construction and Electronic Bids Texas Department of Transportation**

About ExeVision

ExeVision, Inc., is the developer of the iPDWeb solution, a comprehensive, project development system fully integrating all functional aspects of road and bridge construction from estimate creation and electronic bidding, through final contractor payment. ExeVision is also the creator of the iCXWeb application, designed to assist contractors in the creation and submission of responsive bids and facilitate seamless bid communication between contractors and the agency. These two solutions provide substantial time and cost savings for the state transportation agencies that have implemented them. ExeVision has been developing and deploying mission critical applications for over 20 years and is a Utah based company.

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