

Institute finishes first sections of practice manual (September 12, 2000)

By Patricia Williams
Staff Writer
Daily Commercial News

WINNIPEG -The Canadian Design-Build Institute (CDBI) is about to release the first two series of its much-anticipated design-build practice manual.

The manual, which will contain five series in all, will serve to set industry standards in the area of design-build practices. Production of this document has been a key priority for the institute since its establishment two years ago.

"It (the manual) has been a long time coming," said CDBI co-chairman David Morgan, a principal in Dunlop Architects Inc. "It's been a difficult birth, but the delivery time is almost here."

The manual's 100 series is an introduction and provides general information. It contains a glossary of common design-build terminology. "Agreed-upon definition of terminology is required in the industry and this series at last provides this much-needed tool," said co-chairman Barrie Fordham, a senior vice-president of Buttcon Ltd.

The manual's 200 series deals with the procurement and award process. It includes data on developing requests for qualifications and requests for proposals, selection criteria, payment for proposals, patents and copyrights.

The 300 series deals specifically with the ways by which design-builders should respond to requests for qualifications or proposals.

The 400 series addresses project delivery while the final series will provide model forms.

Fordham said work on the third series will begin this fall. The CDBI hopes to release the data next February. Development of the remaining series will begin thereafter.

"It is our plan to have the manual completed as soon as possible," he said. The institute has several other initiatives in the works.

The owners' committee plans to develop a matrix to assist owners in knowing when to choose design-build as a procurement method. It plans to develop standard wording to define performance in specifications. A standard format for requests for proposals is also planned.

"Finally, the committee plans to devise a standard form to survey owners who have used design-build to get feedback on their experiences and to establish new practices," Fordham said.

As well:

- The trade contractors' committee plans to draft a standard design-build partnering agreement between design-builders and trade contractors.
- The standards of practice committee is involved in development of standard documents and guides for the design-build process. A guide to the use of standard design-build documents 14 and 15 is in the works as is a preliminary agreement between design-builders and consultants.
- The risk management committee has taken on the responsibility of identifying risks that are characteristic of the design-build procurement method and will provide commentaries on how to deal with them on a quarterly basis. Bulletins will be posted on the institute's web site.

The CDBI also plans to hold a series of workshops and seminars to address more technical issues.

"As the different sections of the manual are published and as new standard documents and guides are released, CDBI will arrange forums to discuss their contents in detail," Fordham said.

The institute operates under the umbrella of the Canadian Construction Association.