

HART Unseals Bids, Hits 2-Mile Mark

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) unsealed bids in early March for the three rail stations in the Farrington Highway Station Group, which consists of the West Loch Station, the Waipahu Transit Center Station and the station at Leeward Community College.

The lowest bid was by Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. Inc. at \$78,999,000. Nan Inc. submitted a bid of \$85,074,478 followed by Hensel Phelps at \$88,016,525, Watts Constructors at \$88,803,553 and Ralph S. Inouye Co. at \$117,515,520.

"While we are about where we thought we would be, these costs confirm what we've been saying the past few months, and that is we are in an aggressive construction market," said Dan Grabauskas, HART executive director and CEO. "Industry experts forecast those costs will rise even higher in the future, so waiting is not an option."



The first two miles of the elevated rail in West Oahu have been completed.

HART was expected to award the contract on those three stations in late March and plans to request bids for the next set of three west side stations in April.

Meanwhile, Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. has completed the first two miles of the elevated guideway for the 20-mile rail project.

The two miles of the railway completed in mid-February in Kapolei is the equivalent of 84 spans. HART has already constructed 140 columns that will support the guideway.

"We continue to work hard in creating a rail transit system that will better the lives of residents by having them spend less time in traffic and more quality time at home with their families," HART Board Chairman Ivan Lui-Kwan said in a statement.

Rail column work is moving into Waipahu and Pearl City and also includes construction of the guideway over the H-1 Freeway near the H-1/H-2 merge, and the rail operations center in Waipahu.

Pacific Building Trade Expo Gets Rolling

The 16th annual Pacific Building Trade Expo is set for Nov. 17 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Reservations for exhibit space are open with early bird prices until July 31. Sponsorship and seminar speaker opportunities also are available. Admission is free for AEC industry professionals.

The 2015 Expo is presented by Honblue and produced by the Honolulu chapters of the American Institute of Architects and the Construction Specifications Institute. The all-day event features a showcase of products and services from more than 300 vendors as well as two-dozen seminars.

For more information contact Barbie Rosario at barbie@pacific-buildingtradeexpo.com.



Healy Tibbitts JV Takes on Guam Wharf

The Navy's \$39 million wharf improvement project at Apra Harbor on Guam is a Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. joint venture with Guam MACC Builders, Watts Constructors and Obayashi Corporation.

Just getting underway, the work includes improving more than 700 linear feet of the existing X-Ray Wharf Berth 1 at Apra Harbor by constructing a new steel sheet pile bulkhead wall including a tie-back system located 35 feet out board of the existing wharf and providing fill soils between the new and existing bulkheads with associated soil improvements.

Work includes installation of the new sheet pile bulkhead and tie-back system, placement of fill materials between bulkhead walls, improving the strength of the fill using Cement Deep Soil Mixing (CDSM) method, constructing state-of-the-art reinforced concrete wharf deck, fender system and wharf utilities, and dredging the turning basin and wharf face areas. Project also includes a significant design-build scope for all the utilities, wharf deck paving and bilge and oily waste treatment facility.

Armstrong Builders Wins Design Honor

Armstrong Builders has been awarded "Best Of Houzz" for design by Houzz, a platform for home remodeling and design.

Hawaii-based Armstrong Builders specializes in residential, commercial and green developments, and was selected by

the more than 25 million monthly unique visitors to www.Houzz.com from among more than 500,000 active home building, remodeling and design industry professionals.

"We're delighted to recognize Armstrong Builders LLC among our 'Best Of' professionals," said Liza Hausman, vice president of industry marketing for Houzz.