

For Immediate Release
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Tuesday, March 14, 2006 City Rejects Runway 9L-27R Paving, Lighting and Signing Bids Runway Remains on Schedule to Open in 2008

The City of Chicago Department of Procurement Services today rejected the Paving, Lighting and Signing contract bids received for O'Hare's new Runway 9L/27R. The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) requested that the bids be rejected because they exceeded the engineer's estimate for the project. Recent technological improvements at O'Hare allow the bid package's construction phasing to be changed without negatively impacting the schedule. The contract will be advertised in the first quarter of 2007.

"After reviewing the bids and consulting with the O'Hare Modernization Program, it is in the best interest of the City of Chicago to reject these bids," said Barbara Lumpkin, City of Chicago Chief Procurement Officer. "We have followed the City of Chicago's policy and procedures during the entire process, as we do on all City procurements."

"The recent addition of CAT II/III capabilities on two of O'Hare's existing runways gives us the operational flexibility necessary to re-phase this construction work and avoid increased costs," said Rosemarie S. Andolino, Executive Director, O'Hare Modernization Program.

The new phasing offers us the opportunity to achieve cost savings without negatively impacting the runway's schedule," added Andolino.

The OMP is committed to minimizing impacts to O'Hare's ongoing operations as it modernizes the airport. Instrument Landing System (ILS) Category (CAT) II/III capability is important to O'Hare's operation, particularly in bad weather. Four of O'Hare's runways (14L, 14R, 27L and 27R) are ILS CAT II/III equipped to aid with bad weather approaches.

Rejecting the bids does not affect the schedule for commissioning new Runway 9L-27R, O'Hare's first new runway project since 1971. It is still scheduled to open in late 2008.

Site preparation for Runway 9L-27R has been underway since October 25, 2005. Contractors have moved more than 198,000 cubic yards of dirt and poured nearly 5,200 cubic yards of concrete thus far. Land acquisition activities continue in Bensenville, with a total of 75 properties acquired to date.

The O'Hare Modernization Program, approved by the federal government in September 2005, will reconfigure O'Hare's outdated intersecting runway configuration into a modern parallel configuration, substantially reducing delays and increasing capacity. The OMP will create up to 195,000 new jobs and add an additional \$18 billion in annual economic

activity to the region without the use of any state or local taxpayer dollars. For more information, please visit www.OhareModernization.org.

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