

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Geotechnical and Environmental Materials Testing Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0002
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of annual contracts with Building & Earth Sciences, Inc. (Columbus, GA), MC Squared, Inc. (Kennesaw, GA), Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Columbus, GA), and United Consulting Group, Ltd. (Norcross, GA) for geotechnical and environmental materials testing services on an as-needed basis for the Engineering Department. As the need arises, the Engineering Department will request quotes from each of the contracted consultants. The contracts may also be utilized by other City departments requiring the services.

The services will be utilized during the development or design of various construction projects and consists of providing the City with the necessary personnel, equipment and laboratory testing for the geotechnical-environmental areas of soil, concrete, asphalt, aggregates, brick, block, mortar and soil-cement. The services also include remediation consultation for leaking fuel tanks.

The initial term of the contracts will be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal will be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractors.

Annual Contract History:

The previous 5-year contracts were awarded to ATC Group Services, LLC (Columbus, GA), Building and Earth Sciences, Inc. (Columbus, GA), MC Squared, Inc. (Kennesaw, GA) and Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Kennesaw, GA) on March 8, 2016, per Resolution No. 66-16. At the request of the Engineering Department and in accordance with Article 3-109 (Annual Contracts: Price Agreement and Service Contracts) of the Procurement Ordinance, the contract was extended for one year, through May 18, 2022.

RFP Advertisement and Receipt of Proposals:

RFP specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry and DemandStar on December 15, 2021. This RFP has been advertised, opened, and evaluated. Four proposals were received on January 21, 2022, from the following vendors:

- Building & Earth Sciences, Inc. (Columbus, GA)**
- MC Squared, Inc. (Kennesaw, GA)**
- Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Columbus, GA)**
- United Consulting Group, Ltd. (Norcross, GA)**

The following events took place after receipt of the proposals:

RFP MEETINGS/EVENTS		
Description	Date	Agenda/Action
Pre-Evaluation Meeting	05/24/22	The Purchasing Manager advised evaluation committee members of the RFP rules and process, and the using department representative provided an overview. Proposals were then forwarded to each committee member to review.
1 st Evaluation Meeting	06/07/22	The Evaluation Committee discussed each proposal and determined clarifications were not required.
Evaluation Forms Sent	06/10/22	Evaluation forms were forwarded to the voting committee members.
Evaluation Forms Returned	08/02/22	The last set of evaluation forms were returned to the Purchasing Division and the evaluation results were forwarded to the committee.
Evaluation Results	8/03/22	The voting committee members unanimously recommended award to the four responding vendors, Building & Earth Sciences, Inc. (Columbus, GA), MC Squared, Inc. (Kennesaw, GA), Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Columbus, GA), and United Consulting Group, Ltd. (Norcross, GA).

Evaluation Committee:

The proposals were reviewed by members of the Evaluation Committee, which consisted of two voting members from the Engineering Department and one voting member from the Community Reinvestment Department.

Two additional representatives from the Engineering Department served as non-voting advisors.

Award Recommendation:

Based on the evaluation results, the Committee unanimously recommends award to the four responding vendors, Building & Earth Sciences, Inc. (Columbus, GA), MC Squared, Inc. (Kennesaw, GA), Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Columbus, GA), and United Consulting Group, Ltd. (Norcross, GA).

Vendor Qualifications/Experience

- **Building & Earth Sciences, Inc.**
 - The firm was founded in December 1998, and specializes in geotechnical engineering, environmental consulting, materials testing, and special inspection services.
 - The firm has 220+ employees with 18 full-service offices throughout the southeast and lower Midwest.
 - The firm has provided services to the cities of Columbus, GA, Phenix City, AL, Auburn, AL, and Birmingham, AL.

- State universities and college clients include Columbus State University, LaGrange College, Georgia Southern University, Auburn University, University of Alabama, University of North Alabama, and University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- Federal clients include the US Army Corps of Engineers and Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), including projects at Fort Benning and other bases, the FBI Training Complex – Redstone Arsenal-Huntsville, AL/FAA-large air carrier and smaller general aviation airports.
- Below are the last five entities for which similar work has been performed:
 - *W. C. Bradley (Columbus, GA)* *June 2017 – June 2019*
 Provided construction materials testing services for the Rapids at Riverfront Place project, which consisted of a 414,000 square foot mixed-use building. Also provided geotechnical engineering services.
 - *US Federal Properties Co., LLC* *August 2020 – July 2021*
 Provided geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing services.
 - *DMK Development Group (Louisville, KY)* *February 2019 – January 2020*
 Provided geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing for “The Atlas” /Legacy Reserve Assisted Living Facility.
 - *Pratt & Whitney (Midland, GA)* *2018 - Ongoing*
 Provides geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing services for multiple buildings, presses, and piping projects.
 - *Warr Grading (Smiths, AL)* *2019 - Ongoing*
 Provides geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing services throughout Georgia and Alabama for Warr Grading projects.
- **MC Squared, Inc.**
 - The firm was founded as an S-corporation in 2001 and provides services for geotechnical, geo-environmental, and construction inspection.
 - The firm has a team of 100 professionals, 36 engineers, 17 professional engineers (PEs) and 27 field inspectors.
 - The firm is part of the Fulton County on-call contract for architectural and engineering, the Fulton County standby contract for environmental engineering and testing services, and the Gwinnett County on-call contract for comprehensive materials and field testing.
 - The firm is currently prequalified by Georgia Department of Transportation in all areas of Class 6 – Soils, Foundation & Material Testing Services, in Section 8.01

– Construction Supervision, and in all areas of Class 9 – Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

- The firm is currently accredited by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).
- Below are the last five entities for which similar work has been performed:
 - *Gwinnett County (Lawrenceville, GA)* *2021 - Ongoing*
Geotechnical engineering services for underground overflow storage tanks at the Alcovy pump station.
 - *Georgia Department of Transportation/Atkins (Atlanta, GA)* *2016 - Ongoing*
Geotechnical and geo-environmental services, including phases I & II environmental site assessments and GDOT soil survey.
 - *C & M Equipment, Inc. (Watkinsville, GA)* *2019 - Ongoing*
Maxis, a subconsultant of MC Squared, Inc., provides geo-environmental services.
 - *Columbus Spiderweb Project/Wolverton (Columbus, GA)* *2015 - 2017*
Geotechnical and geo-environmental services under GDOT area classes 6.04a, 6.04b, and 6.05.
 - *Quitman County GA (Alpharetta, GA)* *2019 - Ongoing*
Geotechnical and geo-environmental (pavement evaluations) and phases I & II environmental site assessments.
- **Terracon Consultants, Inc.**
 - The firm was founded in 1965 and is an employee-owned engineering firm that is headquartered in Olathe, KS and incorporated in the state of Delaware.
 - The firm provides geotechnical, environmental, construction materials, special inspections, building envelope, roofing, and waterproofing services.
 - The firm has more than 5,000 employees, including engineering professionals, scientists and technicians, from more than 150 offices nationwide. More than 275 professional and support staff are from their Georgia offices.
 - Terracon Consultants, Inc. has been awarded on-call contracts with several Georgia entities, to include Gwinnett County, City of Duluth, Henry County, Rockdale County Water Resources, City of Norcross, Columbus Consolidated Government, City of Johns Creek, Athens-Clarke County SPLOST, and Atlanta Public Schools.
 - The firm is currently qualified by Georgia Department of Transportation in some areas of Class 1 – Transportation Planning and in all areas of Class 6 – Soils, Foundations & Materials Testing.

- The firm is currently accredited by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).
- Below are the last five entities for which similar work has been performed:
 - *Columbus Consolidated Government* *January 2018 – January 2023*
Geotechnical Environmental Consulting Services, a subcontractor of Terracon Consultants, Inc., is part of the on-call contract for lead-based paint/asbestos & clearance testing services for the housing rehabilitation, rental assistance program, and supportive services/operations programs.
 - *Columbus Consolidated Government* *May 2016 – May 2022*
On-call geotechnical and environmental materials testing services. Recent projects include the Riverwalk to Martin Luther King, Jr. Connector, Reese Road Bridge Replacement, Benning Drive Culvert and Claradon Avenue Culvert projects.
 - *Housing Authority of Columbus, GA* *2019 – As needed*
The most recent project is the former Chase Homes property, for which Terracon provided asbestos sampling and abatement monitoring, lead-based paint and mold surveys, Phases I & II environmental site assessments and geotechnical services. Terracon is currently providing materials testing services for the new apartments being constructed on the property,
 - *Gwinnett County (Lawrenceville, GA)* *2012 - 2025*
On-call construction materials testing, geotechnical engineering and environmental services for county-wide road, highways and public facilities projects.
 - *City of Duluth, GA* *2018 - 2023*
On-call construction materials testing, geotechnical engineering and environmental services for city-wide projects.
- **United Consulting Group, Ltd.**
 - The firm was incorporated in Georgia in 1990 and is a privately owned multidiscipline engineering consulting firm headquartered in Norcross, GA.
 - The firm specializes in environmental services, geotechnical engineering, special inspections, and construction materials testing. Additionally, the firm provides geophysical services, including subsurface utility engineering (SUE) and automated instrumentation.
 - The firm has over 180 employees; their environmental services department has 3 professional geologists, an industrial hygienist, a certified hazardous materials manager, an EPA-certified lead inspector, 4 certified lead-based paint inspectors, and 7 certified asbestos-in-buildings inspectors.

- The firm has over 30 years of experience with environmental permitting services, including Brownfield redevelopments, environmental assessment, and remediation and redevelopment plans.
- The firm is currently licensed as Lead-Based Paint Certified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Division.
- The firm is currently qualified by Georgia Department of Transportation in one area of Class 5 – Topography, in all areas of Class 6 – Soils, Foundations & Materials Testing, in Class 8.01 – Construction Supervision, and in some areas of Class 9 – Erosion and Sedimentation Control.
- The firm is currently accredited by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).
- Below are the last five entities for which similar work has been performed:
 - *Gwinnett County (Lawrenceville, GA) September 2021 – October 2022 (4 renewal options)*
Comprehensive materials, field testing and miscellaneous services.
 - *City of Norcross, GA March 2021 – March 2023*
On-call professional engineering and design services.
 - *Fulton County (Atlanta, GA) August 2021 – December 2022 (2 renewal options)*
Standby professional services for environmental engineering and testing services.
 - *Forsyth County (Cumming, GA) January 2022 – December 2023 (3 renewal options)*
Geotechnical services as needed for various projects.
 - *City of Tucker, GA 2018 - 2023*
Geotechnical engineering and materials testing, environmental engineering, and construction engineering & inspection services.

The City’s Procurement Ordinance, Article 3-110, (Competitive Sealed Proposals (Negotiations)) governs the RFP Process. During the RFP process, there is no formal opening due to the possibility of negotiated components of the proposal. In the event City Council does not approve the recommended offeror, no proposal responses or any negotiated components are made public until after the award of the contract. Therefore, the cost information has been submitted to the City Manager in a separate memo for informational purposes.

Funding will be allocated in the budget for specific projects through the CIP, SPLOST, Bond, etc.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ANNUAL CONTRACTS WITH BUILDING & EARTH SCIENCES, INC. (COLUMBUS, GA), MC SQUARED, INC. (KENNESAW, GA), TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. (COLUMBUS, GA), AND UNITED CONSULTING GROUP, LTD. (NORCROSS, GA), FOR GEOTECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS FOR THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT. AS THE NEED ARISES, THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT WILL REQUEST QUOTES FROM EACH OF THE CONTRACTED CONSULTANTS. THE CONTRACTS MAY ALSO BE UTILIZED BY OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS REQUIRING THE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, an RFP was administered (RFP No. 22-0002) and four proposals were received; and,

WHEREAS, the proposals submitted by Building & Earth Sciences, Inc., MC Squared, Inc., Terracon Consultants, Inc., and United Consulting Group, Ltd., met all proposal requirements and were deemed responsive to the RFP; and,

WHEREAS, the initial term of the contracts will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal will be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractors.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute annual contracts with Building & Earth Sciences, Inc. (Columbus, GA), MC Squared, Inc. (Kennesaw, GA), Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Columbus, GA), and United Consulting Group, Ltd. (Norcross, GA), to provide geotechnical and environmental materials testing services on an as-needed basis for the Engineering Department. As projects arise, the Engineering Department will request quotes from each of the contracted consultants. The contracts may also be utilized by other City departments requiring the services. Funding will be allocated in the budget for specific projects through the CIP, SPLOST, Bond, etc.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____
Councilor Barnes voting _____
Councilor Crabb voting _____
Councilor Davis voting _____
Councilor Garrett voting _____
Councilor House voting _____

Councilor Huff voting _____.
Councilor Thomas voting _____.
Councilor Tucker voting _____.
Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor