FDOT

Your Guide to Doing Business with the Florida Department of Transportation

DBE Supportive Services

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CEI Educating Construction Professionals

$158 million Tallahassee Downtown Redevelopment Project Moves Forward with Document Signing

Developer North American Properties has signed the last five documents with the Tallahassee Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to build its Cascades Project on the hem of the city's 24-acre public park, The Tallahassee Democrat (T-D) reports.

"This is a major step in the creation of a transformational, $150,000,000 project," CRA director Roxanne Manning wrote in a memo to the agency's board members. "Thanks to the CRA board's leadership and vision, we are looking forward to the creation of a project which will enhance Tallahassee's downtown with a new activity center adjacent to Cascades Park." (The Cascades Project website says the project value is $158 million.)

Two city blocks will be levelled to make room for the development — described as the largest of any downtown CRA project in Tallahassee's history. There will be apartments, brownstones, retail, restaurants, a hotel, a gym and a $353.6 million total economic impact.

To Read More See Excerpt: https://www.floridaconstructionnews.com/158-million-tallahassee-downtown-redevelopment-project-moves-forward-with-document-signing/

Origis Energy Signs PPA for 50MW PV Project in Florida

Origis Energy and Reedy Creek Improvement District have signed off on a power purchase agreement (PPA) for a 50MW solar facility to be constructed in Orange County, Florida.

Once the project is completed, the installation — built and owned by Origis Energy — will generate approximately 120,000 megawatt hours of power each year and provide clean energy to the Reedy Creek Improvement District.

John Classe, district administrator of the Reedy Creek Improvement District, said: "We're excited to begin work on a new solar facility as part of our ongoing responsibility to oversee land use and environmental protections within the district. This project will significantly enhance our renewable energy abilities and create new environmental opportunities in the future."

The PV facility will be located on 109 hectares in Orange County and will be comprised of 518,000 solar panel modules and will interconnect to the Reedy Creek Improvement District power distribution system.

During the construction phase of the project, 300 jobs will be created. Construction is expected to begin by late 2018 and be completed by the end of 2018.

To Read More See Excerpt: https://www.pv-tech.org/news/origis-energy-signs-ppa-for-50mw-pv-project-in-florida

About The FDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on FDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.

- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.

About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with FDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

How Artificial Intelligence Can Redefine Your Way of Doing Business

Imagine a jobsite tool that only improves with time. Imagine a tool that records each and every change order, every bit of rework and every safety incident. Not only does that tool record it, but it also files it away for future projects. Imagine a tool that learns from the past to improve your company's future.

Through artificial intelligence and machine learning, several software providers in the construction industry are building technology to do all of the above. Pat Keaney, director of product management for Autodesk's BIM 360 suite, has been working on such a solution for several years.
Keaney is part of a team called Project IQ. The team is comprised of approximately 20 artificial intelligence (AI) experts, data scientists, product engineers, user experience (UX) designers and several more roles, all of whom are focused on taking the mountains of data that circulate a construction site on a daily basis and making that data actionable for the project leader or business owner. The team has been collecting data from a number of different companies involved in Project IQ's pilot program. The team has used insights from that data to test and improve several different software solutions. The basis of this solution evolves around machine learning.

For the team at Autodesk, it was immediately evident that for Project IQ to succeed, the general contractors would have to be closely involved with the process from start to finish, because it is their companies' data from which the the team would be learning. And because the team wanted to make sure that whatever it developed would need to be as accurate and helpful to the industry as possible.

Project IQ works with 20 of the largest general contractors in the world, primarily in the United States, but the list includes one in the United Kingdom and one in New Zealand. The first rollout worked to more accurately capture problems as they occur on the jobsite, as well as track and close out those problems in a more efficient manner.

"You can literally have thousands of open issues on a project at any given time," Keaney said. "For example, one project manager told me that he could literally spend all of his time staring at issues and trying to find solutions for them."

One company involved in the initial rollout for Project IQ was Utah-based general contractor Layton Construction. In the last decade, Layton Construction has grown from being a regional contractor to a company that plays on a national level. Rick Holbrook, director of construction operations, is responsible for managing the company's many business units and project segments. More recently, he has also been tasked with improving the company's quality program, which is how Layton connected with the team at Autodesk.

"Our executives had enough foresight to see that Autodesk solutions fit well with Layton's processes. We are a process-driven company that focuses on quality, unity, truth and completeness. Tech is the best tool we have in our arsenal to further those goals," Holbrook said. "Instead of digging through archives and attempting to analyze all of that data, Project IQ software does it for us." The drawback, though, is getting the entire team on board to input good, consistent data. Older solutions were not conducive to easy data compilation, so Layton and the Project IQ team worked together to figure out a software solution that was accessible to the contractor, at any time, in any place.

To Read More See Excerpt: http://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/technology/january-2018-how-artificial-intelligence-can-redefine-your-way-doing-business

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Supportive Services Offered

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website

BONDING, FINANCING, AND INSURANCE

CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.

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