

# NORTHWEST CONSTRUCTION CONSUMER COUNCIL -BP Cherry Point Refinery- Mitigating Project Risk Through Contracting Strategies

# Agenda

- General Cherry Point Contracting Strategy
- Project Goals and Corresponding Risks
- Engineering Contracting Strategies
- Procurement Contracting Strategies
- Construction Contracting Strategies
- Recent Case Experiences
- IPA's Thoughts

# Background



- In mid-late 2002, it was recognized that the next few years for Cherry Point were going to be extremely busy with a number of large turnaround events, large capital projects and a host of compliance projects.
- It was clearly time to set a contracting strategy for the future.

# Who?



- Strategy was prepared with the input from the Turnaround, Capital (Engineering), Maintenance and Commercial Groups based on anticipated upcoming volumes of work.
- Consulted with upcoming, known large projects as needed (ISOM/COGEN) and we continue to do so as large projects arise (ULSD/No. 2 Tail Gas)-it's a living document.

# What?



- The strategy covers all disciplines including engineering, mechanical, electrical and specialty contractors with the main focus on mechanical and electrical contractors.
- Union and Non-union

# When?



- The mechanical and electrical contractors were identified and set in place during the first half of 2003.
- Specialty contractors were identified (and continue to be identified) as scopes are developed and bid packages issued where appropriate.



# How?

 Successful Contractors were identified through competitive bid process – bidders typically those with previous BP/ARCO experience, some new contractors who were prequalified prior to the bid process, and/or contractors who have "federal" deals with BP.

# Why?



- Establish primary and secondary and union/nonunion contracts to fully utilize local resources particularly supervision - to ensure Cherry Point was well positioned for the 2003-2006 Turnaround/Capital work.
- Third and fourth tier contractors were also identified, but no contracts issued.

# Philosophy



- Time & Material
- Hard Money/Lump Sump/Incentive Contracts that make sense, have some historical precedence that it has worked (incentives); fits other ongoing work, i.e. tanks

# Philosophy



- Safety-Always the First Priority
- Fully utilize Contractors, Supervision
- Competitive pricing
- Union/Non-Union
- Partnering
- Utilize BP General Shop/I& E/Machine Shop

# Management



- Monthly (more frequent as necessary) meetings are held with the original Team members to discuss upcoming projects, schedules and best contractor fit.
- Early 2006 we may be going through the sourcing process again, as we see what work is on the horizon.



### Project Goals And Corresponding Risks

- Safety Is The Top Priority
- No Harm To Environment/Community
- Cost
- Schedule
- Quality
- Operability/Maintainability



### Engineering

Reimbursable

#### (Very Difficult to Define Scope and Deliverables Necessary for Lump-Sum Contracting)



#### Procurement

# Traditional Purchase Orders- Lump Sum

## (One Alliance Is Fully Reimbursable)



### Construction

- Reimbursable (T&M)
- Lump Sum Fixed Price
- Unit Rate
- Other



### **Construction- Reimbursable**

- We Know the Risks (Same Projects)-Why Pay Someone to Manage Them For Us?
- We Know Our Contractors/They Know Us
- We Issue General Contracts- T&M Gets Contractor On Board Earlier
- Drives Better Safety/Quality-Contractor Not Focused On The \$'s
- Relationship Based



### **Construction- Reimbursable**

- Requires Knowledgeable Owner's Team
- Requires Larger Owner's Team
- Requires Known Contractor
- Requires Trust/Communication
- Does It Cost More????????? NO!



### Construction- Lump Sum Fixed Price

- Well Defined Scope Required to Bid- Takes Time
- Delays Mobilization- May Not Get Constructability
- Contractors Bid to Norms- Above 50/50 Point
- If Tools, Info, Material Are Furnished On Time-T&M is Cheaper
- Not Relationship Based- It's Almost Always Adversarial



Construction- Lump Sum Fixed Price

- Consider For Unique Projects
- Consider For New or One-Off Contractor
- Consider For Discrete, Small Subcontracts



### **Recent Case Studies**

# Dock Project- Lump Sum

- Things Went Near Perfect
- Potential to Have Saved Millions Under T&M
- Historical T&M Precedence Caused Issues

# Clean Gasoline Project- T&M

- Craft Productivities Better Than Expected-If This Had Been LS, Would Have Cost More
- Converted One LS Contract and Saved \$



- EPC Lump-sum: Detailed engineering, procurement, and construction performed on a fixed-price basis by same firm or consortium
- Reimbursable: Essentially all work performed on a cost-plus fee or cost-plus incentive fee basis
- Mixed: Engineering and procurement performed on a reimbursable basis with predominantly fixed-price construction
- Results are controlled for definition; poorly defined EPC-lump sums have very large penalty

#### **Contracting Strategy and Project Results**



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# Why Are Lump-sum EPCs Usually More Expensive?

- EPC lump-sums seek to transfer project cost risk from the owner to the contractor
- Theory is that because contractors are leading the execution, they should be better able to manage the execution risks, yielding an efficient result
- Problem is that contractors are not easily able to bear equity risks; a substantial loss on a project jeopardizes the firm's earnings or even survival
- Therefore, contractors will almost always bid on a higher than 50/50 basis (except when in financial trouble)
- The larger the project, the higher the risk premium



# Should We Always Avoid EPC-Lump-Sum?

- Highly standardized ("package") plants with competition can often be bid lump-sum with little penalty
  - Watch for unusual conditions, e.g., footprint constraints
  - Tie-ins and integration with existing plant might be contracted separately
- Sometimes EPC lump-sum is an effective technique to reduce unnecessary change. (But team integration and discipline are better!)
- During periods of rapidly increasing project work-load, lump-sum can help leverage owner resources