



# Issue Update

## REPLACEMENT FOR MERX CHOSEN

Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, has announced the awarding of a competitive contract to Mediagrif Interactive Technologies Inc. to provide the next version of the Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS). This five-year contract will take effect in June 2004 with the option to extend it for four additional one-year periods.

According to their news release, the new electronic tendering service will provide better access for small and medium-sized Canadian businesses, at a lower cost while continuing to support transparency, integrity and efficiency in the government's procurement system.

Among the highlights of the new service beginning in June 2004:

- registered users will be able to search and view the full Request for Proposal (RFP) on-line before deciding whether to download the documents;
- documents will be available electronically and will significantly reduce costs to bidders;
- the annual subscription fee for the service will be reduced from a monthly cost of \$29.95 to \$21.95 - a decrease of 27 percent;
- the fee for one-time purchase of documents will be reduced from \$55 to \$39.95 - a decrease of 27 percent; and,
- amendments to solicitations will be available electronically to bidders free of charge.

Michael Atkinson, President of the Canadian Construction Association responded to the news release stating, "We welcome the improved access for construction firms which will now be able to view solicitation documents prior to deciding whether to purchase the tender documents. Our work to further enhance services for the construction industry will continue."

Until the new version becomes operational in June 2004, the current GETS version will continue to be provided through the MERX service.

## LET'S GET BC BUILDING!

The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of, and service to, British Columbia's construction industry.