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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps of Engineers awards O&M contract for projects across Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded two contracts for as much as \$800 million over five years to ITT Corp. to provide operations and maintenance services at hundreds of Afghan national army bases and police stations across the country.

The award requires ITT personnel to train Afghan workers to maintain the facilities.

A \$450 million contract for facilities in the northern region of Afghanistan was awarded on July 26, while a \$350 million contract for facilities in the southern region was awarded on July 27. Both contracts are for one year, with four one-year options.

The scope of work covers more than 300 sites in all 34 provinces in Afghanistan, a country the size of Texas. The sites range from large army bases with more than 40 buildings to stand-alone police stations.

The number of sites included in the contract will increase in coming years as the Corps of Engineers builds additional facilities for the Afghan army and police. Under terms of the contract, ITT will perform scheduled preventive maintenance checks and services, unscheduled maintenance and repair services, and alterations and minor construction.

An important feature of the contracts is the requirement for ITT to train Afghan government workers to perform operations and maintenance services, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Chris West, chief of the Operations and Maintenance Division for the Corps of Engineers' northern Afghanistan district, which is based in Kabul.

"There will be Afghanistan Ministry of the Interior and Afghanistan Ministry of Defense civilian personnel integrated with this contractor learning how to maintain large bases and small facilities," West said.

West noted that many of the facilities are located in remote regions of the country where buildings with electrical, plumbing and security systems are uncommon. Under the Corps of Engineers' oversight, the contractor also will instruct Afghan government workers management skills associated with operating and maintaining the facilities.

“At the end of this five-year period, we intend to be able to turn this over to the Afghan ministries for them to be able to run these facilities themselves,” West said. “They will be trained through this contract to do that.”

The Corps of Engineers selected ITT, which is based in Colorado Springs, Colo., following a competitive process that involved five bidders. The contracts will begin later this year, though a specific date has yet to be identified, West said.

Preliminary estimates call for ITT to hire between 4,000 and 5,000 Afghan workers, though that figure could change, according to the company. Similarly, preliminary estimates call for 150 to 250 American workers.

ITT is a high-technology engineering and manufacturing company with worldwide operations in the defense and security sectors, as well as other business sectors.

The Corps of Engineers has approximately 34,000 civilians and soldiers delivering engineering services in more than 90 countries worldwide. It has two districts in Afghanistan – Afghanistan Engineer District-North, which is based in Kabul; and Afghanistan Engineer District-South, which is based in Kandahar.

The Corps of Engineers is the primary organization building army bases, police stations, roads, airstrips and other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to increase the country’s stability and to benefit its people.

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