(d) Other than “incidental services” as specified in the definition of architect-engineer services in Section 2.101 and in Section 36.601–4(a)(3), services that do not require performance by a registered or licensed architect or engineer, notwithstanding the fact that architect-engineers also may perform those services, should be acquired pursuant to parts 13, 14, and 15.


(a) Contracting officers should consider the following services to be “architect-engineer services” subject to the procedures of this subpart:

1. Professional services of an architectural or engineering nature, as defined by applicable State law, which the State law requires to be performed or approved by a registered architect or engineer.

2. Professional services of an architectural or engineering nature associated with design or construction of real property.

3. Other professional services of an architectural or engineering nature or services incidental thereto (including studies, investigations, surveying and mapping, tests, evaluations, consultations, comprehensive planning, program management, conceptual designs, plans and specifications, value engineering, construction phase services, soils engineering, drawing reviews, preparation of operating and maintenance manuals and other related services) that logically or justifiably require performance by registered architects or engineers or their employees.

4. Professional surveying and mapping services on an architectural or engineering nature. Surveying is considered to be an architectural and engineering service and shall be procured pursuant to 36.601 from registered surveyors or architects and engineers. Mapping associated with the research, planning, development, design, construction, or alteration of real property is considered to be an architectural and engineering service and is to be procured pursuant to 36.601. However, mapping services that are not connected to traditionally understood or accepted architectural and engineering activities, are not incidental to such architectural and engineering activities or have not in themselves traditionally been considered architectural and engineering services shall be procured pursuant to provisions in parts 13, 14, and 15.

(b) Contracting officers may award contracts for architect-engineer services to any firm permitted by law to practice the professions of architecture or engineering.

[56 FR 29128, June 25, 1991, as amended at 64 FR 32747, June 17, 1999]

36.602 Selection of firms for architect-engineer contracts.

36.602–1 Selection criteria.

(a) Agencies shall evaluate each potential contractor in terms of its—

1. Professional qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of required services;

2. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required, including, where appropriate, experience in energy conservation, pollution prevention, waste reduction, and the use of recovered materials;

3. Capacity to accomplish the work in the required time;

4. Past performance on contracts with Government agencies and private industry in terms of cost control, quality of work, and compliance with performance schedules;

5. Location in the general geographical area of the project and knowledge of the locality of the project; provided, that application of this criterion leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project; and

6. Acceptability under other appropriate evaluation criteria.

(b) When the use of design competition is approved by the agency head or a designee, agencies may evaluate firms on the basis of their conceptual design of the project. Design competition may be used when—

1. Unique situations exist involving prestige projects, such as the design of memorials and structures of unusual national significance;