

## On-Line Bid Exchange Service

Bid Express™ ([www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com)) is an Internet service owned by BidX.com, a subsidiary of Info Tech, Inc. It was created as a complement to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Expedite™, which is a software program used by 36 state departments of transportation (DOTS) and their contracting communities to manage, prepare, and submit bid data electronically.

- Bid Express is the web site and back-end database that provides a reliable, secure Internet connection between an agency and its bidders and an effective sealed depository for bids that is not accessible to any parties prior to the public bid opening.
- Bid Express can be implemented in a “one-way” format where the site is configured to allow the agency to post notices to contractors, plan holders lists, bid documents, addenda, and other bid-related information. It will also allow contractors to access bid documents online and perform searches on items, bid tabs, and vendors.
- Bid Express can also be implemented in a “two-way” format to allow for secure Internet bid submission and bid bond validation back to the agency using digital signature technology and a public-private key infrastructure for security. Agency staff interacts directly with Bid Express using an administrative interface accessible via a standard web browser.

### **Why is Bid Express innovative?**

Bid Express is the first fully electronic, internet-based bidding service to be accepted as reliable and secure enough to replace or complement the traditional sealed bid letting process used by transportation agencies. Bid Express represents a significant advance in how DOTs do business with contractors.

### **What did Bid Express change or replace?**

Bid Express replaces paper bid documents and eliminates the need for contractors to travel to letting locations to submit their sealed bids in person, saving significant cost in travel time and expenses. Contractors can also achieve greater geographical reach on jobs they wish to bid, and agencies have access to a potentially larger group of bidders. In addition, contractors can make last minute changes to their bid, for example if they are waiting for sub-quotes, and still submit their bids on time if they use Bid Express. Because Bid Express has a direct interface to most DOTs' award systems, they can automatically download bids and post 'As-Read' results immediately.

Together Bid Express and Expedite have also eliminated many points where manual error checking was necessary by the agency and the bidder during the process. For example, Expedite performs automatic checks of arithmetic and administrative errors. Bid Express ensures that the proposal document is properly signed, that all amendments are applied, that the contractor is an eligible bidder, that cut-off times for submission are enforced, and that the proper vendor ID is used.

Bid Express also allows contractors to submit, withdraw, and resubmit their bids up until bid closing time in a safe, secure environment with encrypted printed and electronic receipts of activity. Under the traditional paper-based, sealed bid process, it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, for contractors to withdraw and resubmit bids.

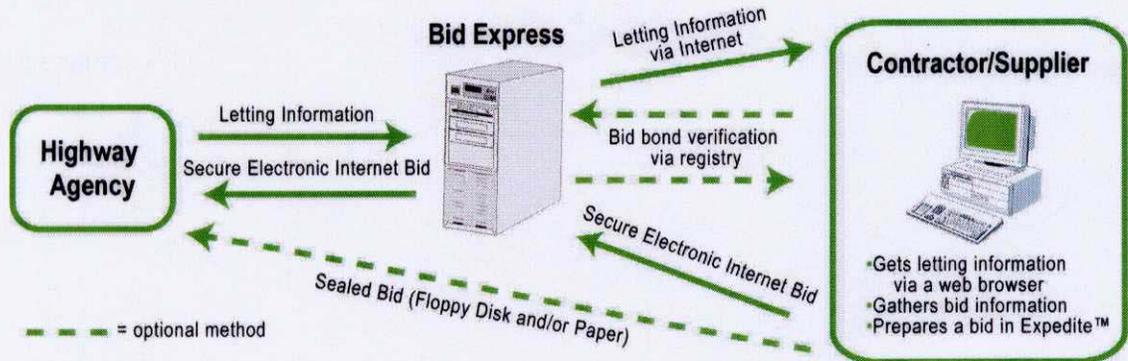
### **Where and when it originated, has been used, and is expected to be used in the future?**

Bid Express was first launched in 1997 with the Wisconsin DOT. It is now in operation with DOTs in the following states: Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Bid Express successfully handled over \$4 billion in contracts in 2001. Arizona DOT is in the final stages of testing and expected to start full production use of Bid Express by October 2002. Other DOTs that are expected to complete implementation and begin full production use of Bid Express by late 2002 or early-mid 2003 include Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, New Mexico, Vermont, and Oklahoma. States that are expected to begin implementation of Bid Express in 2003 include Florida, Ohio, and West Virginia.

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### Bid Express and Expedite Data Flow



### Bid Express Home Page

