

Special Notice

City of Columbia, MO to Accept Electronic Bonds

Effective June 15th, 2008 The City of Columbia, MO will be accepting electronic bonds through **Surety2000**. The purpose of the Surety 2000 system is to provide a more efficient method for Contractors to protect their bid security, eliminate erroneous bid disqualification, transition further toward complete, online electronic bidding through the City's existing electronic bid site, and to discourage fraud in bonding.

The City of Columbia, MO will be using the "Surety 2000" web site to validate the contractors bid bond. It will be the bonding agent's job to access Surety 2000 prior to the bid letting and request a bid bond for each project that the contractor is bidding. The validation of a bid bond will be in the form of an eleven-digit code. The bonding agent must pass this eleven-digit code to the contractor, who in turn includes it with their bid submittal either on line or in their paper bid.

Surety 2000 is an Internet-based surety processing, verification and security system, developed in cooperation with the surety industry. Surety 2000 is currently used by the Missouri Department of Transportation for their electronic bonding process and has proven to be a dependable bonding alternative. Contractors and Surety Agents may contact Surety 2000 toll-free at: **1-800-660-3263** or visit our website at www.surety2000.com for more information.

The City of Columbia, MO would like to invite and encourage all bidders to participate in electronic bonding. If you are interested in using internet bid bonding, please encourage your bonding agent to contact Surety 2000. There is no special software or hardware required to use this Internet based system; however it is not a free service and certain fees apply.

Paper Bid bonds will continue to be accepted by the City; electronic bonding is an option.

Internet Bid Bonding will automate and streamline a very paper intensive portion of our business, thereby helping all contracting parties. Please feel free to contact Surety2000 or myself with your questions.

Marilyn Starke

City of Columbia, Purchasing Agent