

Subpart 536.71 - Construction-Manager-as-Constructor Contracting

Parent topic: [Part 536 - Construction and Architect-Engineer Contracts](#)

536.7101 Scope of Subpart.

This subpart describes policies and procedures for the use of the CMc project delivery method.

536.7102 Definitions.

As used in this subpart—

“CMc Contingency Allowance (CCA)” means an allowance for the exclusive use of the construction contractor to cover reimbursable costs during construction that are not the basis of a change order. These costs could include estimating, scheduling, and planning errors in the final Estimated Cost of the Work (ECW) or other contractor errors.

“Cost” means allowable costs in accordance with FAR Part 31.

“Cost of Performance” means the final sum of cost of the construction work and fee for the construction work.

“Early Work Package” means a set of construction activities that can be clearly defined and separately performed from the remainder of the construction work. Demolition is an example of an early work package.

“Estimated Cost of the Work (ECW)” means the estimated cost of the construction work, not including home office overhead.

“Fee for the Construction Work” means the amount established in the construction contract for the contractor's profit and home office overhead costs, as described in FAR part 31, for the construction work.

“Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)” means the sum of the ECW, CCA, and the fee for the construction work.

536.7103 Construction Contract Solicitation Procedures.

(a) *Procurement Timing.* The request for proposals should be issued only when the project design requirements have been developed to a sufficient degree of specificity to permit competition with meaningful pricing for the ECW. The contracting officer should obtain written documentation for the contract file from the project manager that the project design requirements satisfy the condition stated in this section.

(b) *Proposal Evaluation.*

(1) *Evaluation Factors.*

(i) Except as provided in paragraph (ii) of this subsection, the solicitation shall provide that the technical evaluation factors, when combined, shall be considered significantly more important than cost or price.

(ii) Subject to the approval of the HCA, the weighting of the technical evaluation factors and cost or price may be different than that required under paragraph (i) of this subsection. Any such written approval shall be documented in the contract file.

(2) *Price Realism.* The contracting officer shall provide for a price realism analysis in the solicitation for the purpose of assessing, among others, whether an offeror's price reflects a lack of understanding of the contract requirements or risk inherent in an offeror's proposal. The solicitation shall provide offerors with notice that the agency intends to perform a price realism analysis.

(3) *Total Evaluated Price.* For purposes of evaluation, the total evaluated price shall include the firm-fixed-price for design phase services, the construction work GMP option(s), and any other fixed-priced line items. If advance pricing elements such as extended overhead rates and daily delay rates are proposed, those shall also be evaluated as part of the total evaluated price.

(c) *Government Budget (e.g. Prospectus) Information.* Subject to the approval of the contracting director, the solicitation may include information contained or referenced within a prospectus submission to Congress for a project.

536.7104 Construction Contract Award.

In accordance with FAR 4.1001, the contracting officer shall use the SF 1442 to identify the services or supplies to be acquired as separately identified line items on a unit price or lump sum basis including the design phase services, the construction work GMP option(s), and any other work not included in the previously identified items.

536.7105 Construction Contract Administration.

536.7105-1 Responsibilities.

(a) During all phases of the project, the architect-engineer contractor that is providing design services under a separate contract with GSA is contractually responsible for the design in the same manner as under a traditional, design-bid-build project delivery method.

(b) The design phase services provided by the construction contractor can include, but are not limited to, scheduling, systems analysis, subcontractor involvement, cost-estimating, constructability reviews, cost-reconciliation services, and market analysis.

(c) The scope of work should task the construction contractor with reviewing the design documents and providing pricing information at various defined milestones during the design phase.

(d) During the design phase, the architect-engineer contractor and the construction contractor shall collaborate on the design and constructability issues. The goal of this collaboration is to establish a final ECW that does not exceed the original target ECW.

(e) No discussions between the architect-engineer contractor and the construction contractor shall be considered as a change to the construction contract or design contract unless incorporated by the contracting officer through a modification.

536.7105-2 Guaranteed Maximum Price.

(a) *General.*

(1) *GMP.*

(i) The GMP is the ceiling price described by [FAR 16.403-2](#).

(ii) The GMP is established at contract award. The GMP may be established as one option or as multiple options through separate line items, with a separate GMP amount for each line item.

(iii) The GMP is subject to adjustment under various standard contract clauses, including the changes clause, differing site conditions clause, and suspensions clause.

(iv) The contract file shall contain all documents to support any scope changes including a separate analysis to document the rationale for any upward or downward adjustment to the GMP.

(2) *ECW.*

(i) The proposed ECW incorporated at construction contract award is the target ECW.

(ii) The final ECW should be established prior to completion of the design (i.e. 100 percent construction documents), generally no earlier than completion of 75 percent construction documents.

(iii) The contracting officer shall negotiate the final ECW and incorporate it into the construction contract through a bilateral modification prior to exercising the GMP option.

(3) *CCA.*

(i) The CCA type of allowance may only be used as part of the CMc project delivery method and should not be confused with other types of allowances that may be used with other construction project delivery methods.

(ii) The CCA provides for a contingency relative to a fixed percentage of the ECW, except for the requirements at paragraph (c)(3) of this subsection. The CCA at time of GMP option exercise is subject to negotiation between the contractor and the contracting officer and may be different than the amount at time of contract award.

(iii) The amount of the CCA will depend on the status of design and construction, as well as the complexity and uncertainties of the project. Early phase designs usually include less defined scope and, accordingly, may require a higher initial CCA at time of contract award. Later phase designs may remove uncertainties and reduce risk, allowing for a lower CCA at time of GMP option exercise.

(iv) The CCA shall not exceed 3 percent of the ECW, unless approved in writing by the HCA for a higher amount not to exceed 5 percent of the ECW.

(4) Fee for the Construction Work.

(i) The fee may be proposed per phase of construction if each phase is a separate option.

(ii) At time of proposal submission, the offeror shall submit a list of the items included within the offeror's home office overhead.

(iii) At time of proposal submission, the fee elements may be expressed as a percentage of the ECW, but shall be converted to a fixed amount prior to executing the GMP option.

(iv) The fee for the construction work is not increased or decreased based on fluctuations in the actual costs of the work. The fee may, however be adjusted for changes that are the basis for a change order, including scope changes, differing site conditions, and Government-caused delays.

(v) Any fee for the construction work associated with a change order shall not be driven by a fixed percentage. The contracting officer should determine whether the profit included, if any, in a contractor's proposal is reasonable, see [FAR 15.404-4](#) for additional guidance. The limitations of GSAR [552.243-71](#), especially markups, still apply for any changes.

(b) Design Phase.

(1) The GMP may be bilaterally modified upward during the design phase only for approved additions to the scope of work.

(2) The GMP may be bilaterally modified downward during the design phase for deletions to the scope of work.

(c) Exercising the GMP Option.

(1) The GMP option shall not be exercised until the final ECW is established.

(2) If the sum of the final ECW, CCA, and fee for construction work is less than the GMP as established at contract award or as adjusted in accordance with [FAR Part 43](#), then the contracting officer shall adjust the GMP downward accordingly through a bilateral modification to exercise the GMP option.

(3) If the sum of the final ECW, CCA, and fee for the construction work is greater than the GMP as established at contract award or as adjusted in accordance with [FAR Part 43](#), then the contracting officer should work with the contractor to identify measures to reduce the overall GMP. Such measures may include reducing the CCA, reducing the fee, or as a last resort, reducing the scope of the project.

(4) The GMP option shall not be exercised if the final ECW, CCA, and fee for the construction work is greater than the GMP as established at contract award or as adjusted in accordance with [FAR Part 43](#).

(d) Construction Phase.

(1) After award of the GMP option, changes in scope may be issued as an adjustment to the GMP or as a stand-alone firm-fixed-price line item.

(2) Any changes in scope after award of the GMP option shall be reflected by a written modification to the construction contract in accordance with [FAR Part 43](#).

(e) *Early Work Package.*

(1) Early work packages (see [536.7105-7](#)) may be used in the procurement that are priced separately or included in the GMP option.

(2) If any early work package exercised reduces the scope of the construction services under the GMP option, the ECW shall be reduced, and the CCA, fee for the construction work, and GMP shall be adjusted accordingly.

(f) *GMP Adjustment.*

(1) Any changes to the total GMP or individual parts of the GMP must be incorporated in the contract through a modification.

(2) Any modification that changes the GMP, including modifications for early work packages and fixed price conversions, must clearly state that it includes a change to the GMP and describe the changes to the individual parts of the GMP components in the modification.

(3) Any modification that changes the total GMP, or individual parts of the GMP, is subject to the requirement for a prenegotiation objectives memo and price negotiation memo, including fair and reasonable price determination, per [FAR 15.406](#).

(4) The contracting officer should consult other members of the acquisition team, including the project manager, to analyze and justify any adjustments to the total GMP, or individual parts of the GMP.

536.7105-3 Accounting and Auditing Requirements.

(a) *Cost Accounting Standards.*

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this subsection or through an exemption at [FAR 30.201-1](#), construction contracts under the CMc project delivery method are subject to the cost accounting standards (CAS) identified in FAR Part 30.

(2) The contracting officer may request a CAS waiver in accordance with the requirements at [FAR 30.201-5](#) and [530.201-5](#).

(3) If CAS applies, the contract clauses identified at [FAR 30.201-4](#) shall be included in the contract.

(4) If a CAS waiver is granted or if CAS does not apply, the contract clause identified at [536.7107\(b\)](#) shall be included in the contract.

(b) *GMP Option Accounting.*

(1) Open Book Accounting. Open book accounting shall be followed for financial tracking of all contract line items that are awarded on a GMP basis. Such financial tracking may be accomplished through an audit in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(2) Payments and Reconciliation. All payments shall be reconciled with the open book accounting

records and the schedule of values adjusted, as appropriate. Reconciliation shall occur each month and should be coordinated with monthly progress payments. The reconciliation shall be documented in the contract file.

(c) Auditing Requirements. In accordance with GSAM [542.102\(a\)](#), for any audit services required by this Subpart [536.71](#), the contracting officer shall first request such services be performed by or through the Assistant Inspector General for Auditing or the Regional Inspector General for Auditing. If the Office of Inspector General declines to perform such an audit, the contracting officer may obtain audit services from a certified public accountant.

536.7105-4 Value Engineering.

In accordance with [FAR 48.202](#), the clause at [FAR 52.248-3](#) Value Engineering-Construction does not apply to incentive contracts. Accordingly, value engineering, as that term is used and described in FAR Part 48, shall not apply to the CMc project delivery method described in this subpart.

536.7105-5 Shared Savings Incentive.

(a) General. The incentive is a shared portion of the difference between the final GMP and the final cost of performance. Cost reductions may be realized by the construction contractor as a result of innovations and efficiencies during the construction phase, such as increased labor productivity or strong material subcontract negotiations.

(b) Share Ratio.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the share ratio for the construction contractor shall range from 30 percent to 50 percent. The share ratio for the construction contractor shall not exceed 50 percent. The complexity of the project and the amount of risk to the construction contractor should be considered when determining the ratio. A project with greater risk to the construction contractor should reflect a greater share ratio for the construction contractor.

(2) Subject to the approval of the HCA, the share ratio may be different than that required under paragraph (b)(1) of this subsection. Any such written approval shall be documented in the contract file.

(c) Incentive Calculation. The incentive amount is calculated in accordance with the clause at [552.236-79](#) Construction-Manager-As-Constructor.

536.7105-6 Allowances.

(a) Establishing a separate allowance in addition to the CCA is only permitted pursuant to a written determination approved by the contracting director supporting the use of any such allowance.

(b) The written determination for a separate allowance in addition to the CCA shall consider the following:

(1) Alternative contracting structures, such as a separate GMP line item or performing the work as part of the GMP option, and

(2) Ensuring conformance with all applicable rules and procedures relating to allowances, including [FAR 11.702](#).

536.7105-7 Early Work Packages.

(a) Construction services for an early work package must be within the scope of the overall contract.

(b) Early work packages may be part of the initial procurement as a separately priced line item, or the Government and the construction contractor may agree to develop an early work package after award, typically identified toward the beginning of the project.

(c) *Early Work Packages Developed After Award.*

(1) The parties shall bilaterally agree to the scope, schedule, and pricing for any such early work package, and the contract shall be modified in accordance with [FAR Part 43](#).

(2) If any such early work package reduces the scope of the construction services under the GMP option, the ECW shall be reduced, and the CCA, fee for the construction work, and GMP shall be adjusted accordingly.

(3) Any modification to the contract for an early work package is subject to the requirement for a prenegotiation objectives memo and price negotiation memo, including fair and reasonable price determination, per [FAR 15.406](#).

(d) Early work packages that are firm-fixed-price are not subject to open book accounting, a shared savings incentive, or the need for determination of final settlement.

536.7105-8 Conversion to Firm-Fixed-Price.

(a) At any time after completion of 100 percent construction documents, the Government and the construction contractor may bilaterally convert the whole contract to firm-fixed-price.

(b) Conversion to firm-fixed-price may occur after the contingency risks, to be covered by the CCA, have been sufficiently reduced in the best interest of the Government. See [FAR 16.103\(b\)](#) for additional guidance for assessing risk management, profit motive, and timing considerations.

(c) Conversion to firm-fixed-price is only permitted pursuant to a written determination from the contracting officer to the contract file supporting the conversion. The contracting officer should consult other members of the acquisition team, including the project manager, to analyze and justify the conversion.

(d) The contracting officer shall not agree to a firm-fixed-price in excess of the GMP.

(e) In accordance with [536.7105-3\(c\)](#), the contracting officer shall obtain an independent audit of the construction contractor's costs incurred in the performance of the contract to date.

(f) When evaluating the construction contractor's proposal for firm-fixed-price definitization, the contracting officer should compare the anticipated final cost to the firm-fixed-price being proposed. It may be reasonable for the construction contractor to include a contingency for assuming the risk

associated with agreeing to the firm-fixed-price. The contracting officer should evaluate this contingency to ensure that the proposed amount reasonably reflects the remaining risks being assumed by the construction contractor. This evaluation may be informed by the history of the project, the balance of the CCA, and other factors.

(g) The modification to convert to a firm-fixed-price is subject to the requirement to obtain cost and pricing data unless one of the exceptions in [FAR 15.403-1](#) applies.

(h) The modification to convert to a firm-fixed-price is subject to the requirement for a prenegotiation objectives memo and price negotiation memo, including fair and reasonable price determination, per [FAR 15.406](#).

(i) Upon converting to a firm-fixed-price, the contract is no longer subject to open book accounting, a shared savings incentive, or the need for determination of final settlement.

536.7106 Construction Contract Closeout.

Unless the contract has been converted to a standard firm-fixed-price contract (see [536.7105-8](#))—

(a) The contracting officer shall ensure that the construction contractor's proposal for final settlement is accurate and reliable in accordance with the open book accounting practices of the contract.

(b) In accordance with [536.7105-3\(c\)](#), the contracting officer shall obtain an independent audit of the construction contractor's costs.

536.7107 Contract Clauses.

(a) *FAR deviation.* GSA has a FAR deviation that allows use of the clause [552.236-79](#) in lieu of the FAR clause at [52.216-17](#). Insert a clause substantially the same as the clause at [552.236-79](#), Construction-Manager-As-Constructor, in solicitations and contracts if construction, dismantling, or removal of improvements is contemplated when a CMc project delivery method will be followed in lieu of the FAR clause at [52.216-17](#).

(b) Insert a clause substantially the same as the clause at [552.236-80](#), Accounting Records and Progress Payments, in solicitations and contracts if construction, dismantling, or removal of improvements is contemplated when a CMc project delivery method will be followed and cost accounting standards do not apply. This clause is used when the clauses at FAR 52.230-2 Cost Accounting Standards, FAR 52.230-3 Disclosure and Consistency of Cost Accounting Practices, and FAR 52.230-6 Administration of Cost Accounting Standards do not apply.