



Project Administration for DESIGN-BUILD Contracts

A Primer for Owners, Engineers, and Contractors

James E. Koch, Ph.D., P.E.
Douglas D. Gransberg, Ph.D., P.E.
Keith R. Molenaar, Ph.D.



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Foreword

I am both pleased and honored to be invited to write a foreword for a book on the topic of design-build contract administration. This type of book has been a long time in coming and provides much-needed guidance for both design-builders and—more importantly—our valued clients. I have had the pleasure of knowing Doug Gransberg for years through The Beck Group's involvement with the University of Oklahoma's Construction Science Division, where we have found many of our best employees. Doug's program has been one of a few that seeks to prepare entry-level designers and constructors with the skill set to be successful as integrated design-builders. We have also employed him as a design-build consultant to assist The Beck Group's efforts to better understand federal government opportunities. I have always found his in-depth and practical understanding of design-build to be unique, refreshing, and informative. I know Doug's co-authors, Keith Molenaar and Jim Koch, by reputation and through our mutual involvement in the Design-Build Institute of America. A book by this trio of experienced design-build researchers, practitioners, and consultants is written from a deep well of experience. Keith Molenaar was the first researcher in the nation to tackle this emerging area in the early 1990s, and Jim Koch worked with Doug in their previous careers in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where they pioneered the Corps's design-build program. He has spent the subsequent years putting his experience to work for the nation's benefit as a director of the Rebuild Iraq program. Thus, the information contained in this book has literally been tested in the most challenging project delivery environments.

This is the opportune time for all practitioners to develop a keen understanding of the design-build delivery method. Up until now, too many design-build projects either appear to have been designed by the contractor or fail to embrace the unique opportunities to integrate the disciplines. We must learn to build upon our knowledge of the process on a project-by-project basis and ultimately consider marrying the disciplines within the same firm in order to amortize investments in technology, cross-training, cross-disciplinary processes, and so on over many projects. The