

Talking Points for Mr. Robert Neary's Welcome to CFM Industry Forum Participants

Good morning!

My name is Bob Neary, and I'm the Acting Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Construction and Facilities Management. Thank you all for attending and participating in this Industry Forum on our use of Integrated Design Construct contracts. I understand that we have participants who have travelled from as far away as California, Colorado, Missouri, Illinois and Louisiana to be here today. I also understand we have a large number of participants from the DC metropolitan area. Thank you all for coming. Your participation means a great deal to us and we appreciate your commitment to VA and the work we do to support America's Veterans.

The goal of this Forum is to gain feedback about how VA has and can, going forward, use Integrated Design Construction contracts, specifically for large-scale healthcare construction projects. In attendance with us today, we have architects, engineers, construction management firms, construction companies and related trade associations. And we are interested in capturing all of your unique perspectives on how VA can best use IDC contracts to design and construct large-scale healthcare facilities that deliver best value to VA and the Veterans we serve, while enabling all of you to work together in the most efficient and effective way possible.

As you can see in the agenda you have, we'll spend some time updating you on the work we are doing and on upcoming major healthcare construction projects. After that, we will move to facilitated breakout sessions where we want all of you to be direct, frank and honest about what does and does not work with our use of IDC contracts. These sessions will be facilitated by the Ambit Group, a consulting firm that has a great deal of experience facilitating these types of industry feedback forums. There will not be any VA personnel in the breakout sessions. We did this to enable you to be as candid as possible.

After the conclusion of our morning breakout sessions, we'll break for lunch, and then return to this room as a group to hear from the Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization about their programs to encourage small business participation. After that, the facilitators will report on the findings from the morning breakout sessions and we'll engage in a facilitated group discussion. Later in the afternoon we'll engage in an open question & answer session with the VA CFM panel. We will wrap up the day's events with an informal cash bar reception where we can talk one-on-one.

To make this day successful, we need your frank feedback. We need the CFM personnel in attendance to listen and be open to all topics of discussion. And we need our facilitators to ensure all are heard, that you provide us with your concerns, ideas and recommendations, and to capture your comments so that we may turn your feedback into action items for improvement.

Again, thank you for your time, your feedback and your desire to help us meet our mission of providing for America's Veterans.