

BidTabs Professional Software Companion to EBASE Available

HQ Design is pleased to announce that we have completed the acquisition and testing of a new software package that will greatly enhance designers' ability to use very recent (up to current week) bid history to develop and update project estimates. This software works as a companion to EBASE is now available for statewide use.

BidTabs Professional (BTP) is an easy to use, MS Windows-based system which allows the user to research the following:

- Bid history tables (2000 through current week)
- Pay item usage
- Contractors bid results for all WSDOT bid contracts and pricing trends

As the bidding climate gets more and more competitive, it becomes critical to have more recent information to make better estimate pricing decisions. This software can be used to:

- Double check current costs vs. region, county or state averages
- Create several "what if" scenarios based on controlled criteria
- Conduct detailed pre/post bid analysis
- Compare all bidders' prices by category of work
- Help justify change order prices
- Search for non-standard bid items quickly
- Track price escalation on a weekly bases

BTP is a one-of-a kind software program that allows a user to very quickly and easily sort through the WSDOT bid tabs data to generate reports on what is important to the user. Numerous parameters can be combined for analysis with the click of a mouse, which allows historical data to be sifted and sorted in ways never before possible. Consequently, an almost unlimited number of analysis scenarios can be generated. Reports can be viewed, printed or exported to spreadsheets. The historical bid tabs information available to the user is from Jan 1, 2000 to as current as contracts opened this week.

The companion software BidTabs PLUS was also acquired, which allows the user to import a project (with pay items, descriptions, quantities and units) from an electronic format into a spreadsheet and then automatically load historical tabs prices for all items in up to three different columns. By seeing what past prices have been—according to the criteria set in each column by the user—the users can very quickly get an estimate or feel for a project and then enter their own prices in the bid column. Users can import pay items from a spreadsheet, or enter items from a master pay item database within the program itself. The program can also export files to an Excel spreadsheet.

Installation is easy: the program is available to any WSDOT employee who has access to EBASE and deals with any form of estimate pricing. Simply contact your region's IT Help Desk and log a ticket for installation. Once installed, there is an online help manual available on our web site:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Design/ProjectDev/EngineeringApplications/BidTabs.htm>

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