

Clauss Construction
Patrick Clauss, Owner
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Award Category: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year

Clauss Construction is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business who specializes in demolition and hazardous materials cleanup. Clauss successfully accomplished the demolition of the TAN 607 Hot Shop, a high risk and high profile project for CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC (CWI) in support of the Idaho Cleanup Project.

To provide brief history of the TAN Hot Shop, which will help one to understand the significance of this project, the facility, built in the 1950's, measured 52' wide by 196' long, by 55' high, with 7' thick, high density concrete and rebar walls, which afforded protection for personnel involved in examining, handling, analyzing, assembling, and disassembling highly radioactive or contaminated components including reactor systems. Within the same structure were several smaller hot cells and other facilities that supplemented the Hot Shop capabilities. The TAN Hot Shop provided support to later programs including the Loss-Of-Fluid Tests (LOFT), and was also used to analyze waste material generated by, and received from, the Three Mile Island reactor cleanup activities. The TAN Hot Shop is believed to be the world's largest hot shop and has a record report of historic significance in the Library of Congress Archives in Washington DC.

Demolition of this structure was an extremely difficult and very high risk project with the use of explosives. All work was highly visible and under heavy scrutiny. This procurement was reserved exclusively for small business, which was significant in itself based on the size and complexity of the project. Clauss won the subcontract under a competitive solicitation on May 7, 2007, under a best value selection process valued at approx. \$2.4M, also the most favorable price. Clauss was evaluated on the following criteria: 1) Technical Expertise, 2) Key Personnel, 3) Technical Approach, 4) Safety Program, 5) Schedule, 6) Price; they offered a solid and well-qualified team of subcontractors including E2 Inc., American Radiation Services, and explosive specialist, Controlled Demolition, Inc (CDI).

Clauss developed an extensive demolition plan which went through a rigorous review process by both CWI and DOE-ID counterparts; the plan demonstrated a considerable level of knowledge, experience, and careful coordination and organization of activities necessary to complete the work. The plan was proven upon the successful, on-time completion of the project which received high praise from everyone involved. The work was executed with a tremendous spirit of cooperation, high precision, and exceptional customer service. Clauss finished the work and completely demobilized slightly ahead of schedule; they accomplished 100% administrative completion within the project completion date, which is traditionally done much later. The DOE- ID Subject Matter Expert for explosive demo was so pleased with Clauss' expertise and performance, he contacted CWI as he believed an incentive award or some level of recognition was due Clauss and its lower tier sub, CDI.

Furthermore, Clauss offered additional cost savings by declining to invoice for site-specific training required by the project, estimated at \$26K; although fully entitled and expected, Clauss responded "it takes the owner (CWI) and the Contractor (Clauss) working together to make a project a success and to finish on time." Clauss simply thanked the CWI team for assisting them through road blocks and advised CWI "they considered the job closed." (Wow!!)

Also noteworthy, despite the complexity and value of this award, there were only five change orders to this subcontract, all of which were administrative in nature. This is highly unusual for a construction/demolition project, particularly one of this magnitude.

With the general risks associated with demolition work, and the ultra-high risks of explosive demolition, safety was of greatest concern by all. Clauss worked very closely with every member of the TAN D&D team and embraced our safety culture throughout the project.

Clauss is a shining example of what small businesses are capable of when given the opportunity! They are worthy of recognition for their superior work, cooperative attitude, excellent safety performance, and nearly seamless integration with their subs as well as our D&D project representatives. Team spirit was evident during all construction meetings and throughout the project. CWI is very proud to have Clause as such a strong partner in completing this historic project and the Small Business Program Manager is elated it was accomplished by a Service Disabled Veteran-Owned small business. This takes Win/Win to a whole new level!!

I believe Clauss Construction is most deserving of this award and I hope to heighten awareness of their capabilities and stellar performance across the DOE complex.

Nominated by:

Natalie Packer
Small Business Program Manager
CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC
Idaho Cleanup Project (DOE-ID)