



Photo by Agata Bogucka, NREL, 93540

Reduced Contracting Time To Accelerate Construction

A Streamlined Approach for Speed and Scale

In the fast-paced construction world, efficiency isn't just an advantage—it's a necessity. By implementing the Cooperative Construction Contracting Agreement (CCCA), we are transforming how we approach major projects, replacing traditional multistep contracting with a streamlined, one-step process. This innovative contracting approach saves valuable time and resources, enabling us to accelerate delivery across our portfolio of projects.

Under the old model, each construction phase required separate competitive solicitations for design, build, and other services. With the CCCA, we've consolidated these steps, working with a trusted partner from start to finish. This results in significant time savings that translate into faster project execution without compromising quality or safety.

Delivering Projects With Efficiency

The benefits of this streamlined process extend beyond time savings. Our ability to multitask—managing multiple projects simultaneously—positions us to deliver on an ambitious growth and expansion agenda. With one major contractor we establish an efficient pipeline for material procurement,

Key Highlights

- ▶ **Nine-Month Savings in Acquisition Process:** The CCCA approach streamlines acquisition steps and yields significant process efficiencies without compromising critical procurement principles.
- ▶ **25%–50% Reduction in Project Completion Timeline:** Applying private sector efficiencies to government projects.
- ▶ **Cost Savings:** Simultaneously scoping, pricing, and delivering multiple projects on time, on budget, and at scale.
- ▶ **Safety Through Partnership:** Working with one major partner creates unparalleled efficiency—they know our robust safety requirements, apply them consistently to all NREL projects, and can rapidly apply lessons learned without significant retraining.
- ▶ **Accelerating New Opportunities:** The Contracting Pilot and Design-Build program expedites construction for rapidly evolving mission needs, such as the secured facility, as they arise through streamlined processes.
- ▶ **Head Start in Procurement:** In partnering with one contractor, the CCCA approach increases process efficiency, trades workforce accessibility, and availability of critical materials—saving years in project timelines.
- ▶ **Independent Contractor Validation:** Independent validation reviews ensure all project costs are appropriately scoped, competitive, transparent, and aligned with market standards.
- ▶ **Small Business Mentorship:** The CCCA mentor/protégé program helps reach local small businesses, expands accessibility to government contracts, and creates jobs.



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project scheduling, and resource allocation. This proactive approach has reduced the timeline of the RFQ/RFP process by about nine months per project and ensured smoother implementation of construction initiatives, keeping us ahead of schedule and on budget.

Building Safety Into Every Step

Safety remains a cornerstone of every project, and our new contracting approach elevates it further. By maintaining a consistent partnership we're creating a feedback loop where lessons learned on one project are rapidly applied to others. This unique approach further allows our partner to retain more of its workforce on-site by simply shifting experienced workers from one project to another, thus creating a more veteran workforce that better understands the safety culture, which results in reducing the risk of safety incidents due to worker unfamiliarity. This ongoing collaboration fosters a shared safety culture, ensuring continuous improvement and prioritizing worker and community well-being.

Strengthening Collaborative Partnerships

The CCCA isn't just about efficiency and fostering deeper working relationships with our partners. Working with a consistent partner from day one creates a collaborative environment where expertise, insights, and innovative practices are shared seamlessly. A notable advantage of this approach is the ability to engage in early collaboration with our partner by having them provide early feedback on the scope and estimated construction costs to ensure alignment

of the project scope with the available budget prior to issuing an RFP, finding out the project is not feasible, and then starting over. This partnership strengthens our ability to deliver complex projects on time and on budget while achieving greater alignment in goals and expectations.

Savings That Matter

Time is money, and we're maximizing both by reducing contracting timelines and eliminating inefficiencies. Our independent contractor reviews ensure that project costs are validated by the market, adding a layer of transparency and accountability. This innovative Design-Build approach has been demonstrated to reduce the project completion timeframe by 25%–50% when compared to other similar Department of Energy (DOE) projects. It provides responsible stewardship of resources, aligning with our commitment to delivering value.

A Model for Efficiency and Innovation

The CCCA is more than just an innovation for NREL—it serves as a potential model for DOE and its broader mission. The agreement sets a new standard for accuracy, expediency, and resource stewardship by integrating private marketplace principles into government operations. This template demonstrates how DOE programs can achieve speed and scale in contracting and project management without compromising precision—paving the way for more innovative, more effective project delivery across the national laboratory complex.