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**MCCA OPENS SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER PROJECT BIDS**  
*Apparent Lowest Bid Received from Fontaine Bros., Inc. of Springfield*

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today opened bid contract documents from general contractors interested in performing the renovation and expansion of the Springfield Civic Center and announced that Fontaine Bros., Inc. of Springfield was the apparent lowest bidder at \$47.7 million.

“We are one step closer to awarding the construction contract for the Springfield Civic Center and furthermore, one step closer to breaking ground,” said James E. Rooney, MCCA Interim Executive Director and Director of Development and Construction. “We have received a low bid and hopefully we will be able to officially award the contract in the next several weeks so that we can get to work on the project.”

Three general contractors submitted bids for the project to the MCCA and the official awarding of the contract will be made within thirty business days, once the MCCA determines that the bid meets all of the bid specifications, which were issued on May 7th. Because the civic center renovation is a public construction project, the MCCA is obligated under Massachusetts construction law to award the construction contract to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder that complies with the conditions and requirements provided in the bid specifications.

A responsible and eligible bidder is a bidder that possesses the skill, ability and integrity necessary to faithfully perform the project and one that meets the licensing and bidding requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Massachusetts law also required the MCCA to bid out 15 smaller pieces of the project separately, which totaled approximately \$22 million. The chosen general contractor will have to work with the individual companies chosen to perform those pieces.

“This is an exciting development project for the city of Springfield and the entire region,” said Gloria C. Larson, Chairman of the MCCA. “We know that they are looking forward to seeing the construction start and we are happy that the process is moving along as planned.”

The \$71 million overall project, which is slated to begin this summer and be completed in the summer of 2005, will completely renovate the existing Springfield Civic Center for use as a multi-purpose arena and convention center. Construction will include approximately 147,000 square feet of new building for convention, exhibition and

meeting space and the renovation of approximately 215,000 square feet of the existing facility.

The new facility will include an exhibit hall, meeting rooms, a ballroom, pre-function space, a kitchen and support spaces. The exhibit hall will be located on the ground level with the capacity to be divided into two smaller exhibit halls and the meeting space will allow for five separate meeting rooms. The ballroom will provide great opportunities for functions and will have the added feature of opening out into the pre-function space with views to Court Square.

As part of the project, the facilities for the AHL Springfield Falcons will be totally upgraded. The former ice system has been replaced with a state-of-the-art system and spectator seating, concessions, home and visiting team locker rooms and administration and support spaces will all be replaced with new facilities. Additionally, club seating and a new, modern center-hung scoreboard will be installed.

The civic center will be open throughout the renovation and Falcons games as well as other scheduled events will continue to be held. The Falcons administrative offices will be relocated temporarily to 155 State Street in Springfield and tickets to Falcons games will be sold out of this location as well as at the civic center.

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