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MTA'S CONTRACT CONTROL SYSTEM SELECTED FOR HONOR BY FORD FOUNDATION, JFK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

The MTA's automated Change Control System (CCS) has been selected as a semifinalist project in the Innovations in American Government Awards program, a nationwide competition sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. CCS has been a major factor in saving time and money in processing construction contract change documents for Metro Red Line Segment 2.

CCS is one of 14 California projects named as semifinalists by the institutions. Selected from a pool of 1,451 applications, they are among 100 nationwide contenders for \$1.8 million in Ford Foundation grants. The 15 winning programs, to be announced this fall, each will receive a \$100,000 grant.

Developed in 1992 by the MTA's Rail Construction division, the computerized system provides definitive contract change, claims and document submittal tracking. It also generates forms and has a mechanism for extensive retrieval of historical construction records.

"CCS fills a major void in the heavy construction industry," said John J. Adams, MTA acting executive officer, construction. "No other computer software package provides such extensive support for large construction projects with their stringent federal, state and local funding regulations."

Since implementation of CCS, the MTA's Rail Construction division has realized nearly a 75 percent reduction in contract change preparation time. The system also has been recognized as an important element in achieving a more than 60 percent reduction in change costs on Segment 2.

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Twenty-six public agencies and 17 private firms currently are evaluating whether to purchase CCS from the MTA either for direct use or as a model for internal development of their own contract change control systems.

The Innovation Awards recognize programs and policies that represent fresh, highly effective approaches to meeting public needs. The 100 semifinalists address problems across a broad spectrum of public policy, from social services to environmental preservation, from telecommunications to government effectiveness, and from welfare reform to community development.

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