

Team to run new Georgia city in landmark public-private partnership

When Sandy Springs, Ga., opens its doors as a city on Dec. 1, one of its first orders of business will be to approve a \$32 million annual contract with CH2M HILL-OMI.

At its Sept. 14 meeting, the Governor's Commission for the City of Sandy Springs unanimously recommended CH2M HILL and OMI to enter into negotiations to provide a majority of municipal services for the community of 90,000 north of and adjacent to Atlanta.

After a 35-year struggle to become a city, 94 percent of the community's voters in June approved a referendum in favor of cityhood. Sandy Springs will become Georgia's seventh largest city on Dec. 1. Striving to create the most efficient, responsive and cost-effective city possible, the commission has opted to outsource all city services except police, fire and 911 (emergency call service).

"Sandy Springs represents a landmark, first-of-a-kind partnership in choosing to contract the majority of its services through the private sector," said Gary Miller, OMI's senior vice president of Business Development and Planning. "This has been an outstanding collaboration of enterprise resources that puts us in an exciting new market of delivering turnkey solutions for municipal government."

Sandy Springs issued proposal requests for two distinct areas: an administrative side to handle duties such as customer service, human resources, accounting and information technology; and

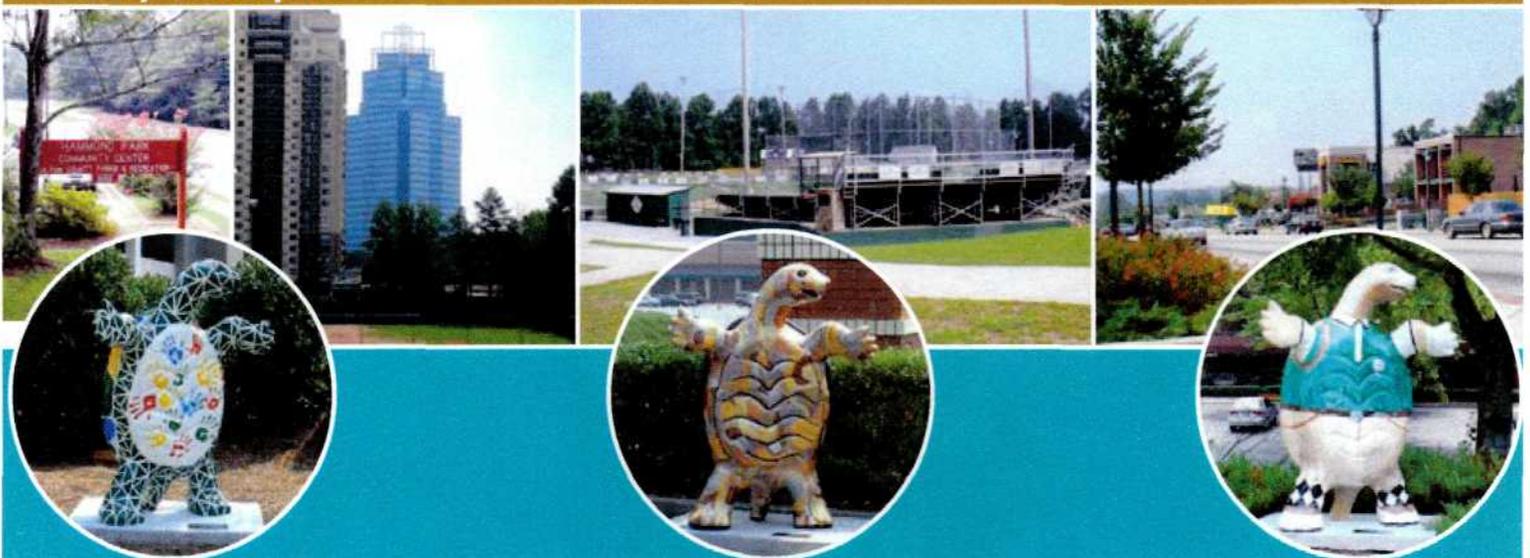
a hands-on side to provide public services such as public works, transportation, parks and recreation, and planning and zoning. After an intensive proposal and interview process, the CH2M HILL team—OMI and the Water, Transportation, and Communications & Information Solutions business groups—was selected for both.

Dozens of staff from offices across North America contributed to this win. And employees jumped right into the community following the selection, answering questions and soliciting input from residents at the recent Sandy Springs Festival. In addition to the company's own resources, the CH2M HILL team includes Lowe Engineers, SunGard HTE, JAT Consulting Services, Volt Technical Resources and BellSouth, along with a number of other specialized subcontractors.

"Sandy Springs is one of the most unique and exciting opportunities we've ever had, and it really shows in the enthusiasm of everyone involved in getting us to this point," Miller said. "Being selected on both RFPs demonstrates the enormous faith the selection committee and the governor's commission have in us. We're already a market leader in public-private partnerships, and through this project we can be a market creator in delivering total city services."

Oliver Porter, chairman of the governor's commission, told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that while CH2M HILL was not the lowest bidder, "it consistently scored higher" in categories that included qualifications, financial depth, experience and implementation plan. The commission, which is handling the transition to cityhood, will negotiate a contract and forward it to the city council for approval when the council takes office in December. Sandy Springs voters will elect their first city council on Nov. 8, and work on the contract is expected to begin Jan. 1.

City with Spirit



This summer, more than 60 5-foot-tall colorful fiberglass turtles decorated the streets and parks of Sandy Springs as a fundraiser and to promote community spirit. The turtles were sponsored by local businesses and community groups and were painted by local artists. The project was developed by the Sandy Springs Society and sponsored by the Northside Hospital.