

## USAID

A federal grand jury in Birmingham, Ala., on July 25 indicted Bill Harbert Construction Inc., its overseas subsidiary and two individuals, including a former board member of German construction giant Philipp Holzmann, for rigging bids on four federally funded contracts in Egypt. Peter Schmidt, who retired from Holzmann's management board in 1993, was indicted along with Elmore Roy Anderson, retired president of Harbert's international construction business in Liechtenstein. Holzmann's U.S. subsidiary J.A. Jones Construction Co., Charlotte, N.C., was Harbert's joint venture partner on the projects. Jones was not implicated in the criminal investigation (ENR 8/28/00 p. 12).

The indictment claims that Schmidt and Anderson rigged bids on three U.S. Agency for International Development projects and one U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers project. Specifically, the indictment claims that more than \$5.22 million was paid to co-conspirators on one USAID wastewater treatment construction contract.

Other companies involved in the conspiracy, which have already settled with the U.S. Justice Dept., are: ABB Asea Brown Boveri, and its U.S. subsidiary Sadelmi USA Inc.; Archirodon Group, and its U.S. subsidiary George A. Fuller Co.; Bilfinger + Berger and its U.S. subsidiary Fru-Con Construction.

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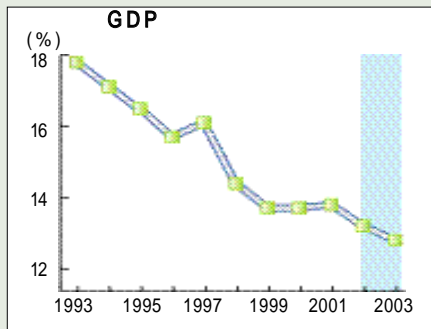
New York developer Donald Trump has his sights set on Chicago, possibly building the World's tallest building there. In a joint venture with parent company of the Chicago Times, Trump announced plans on Tuesday to build a massive multi-use complex on the site of the newspaper's



existing headquarters on the Chicago River.

Trump and the executives of Hollinger International, owners of the Chicago-Sun Times, met with Mayor Richard Daley shortly after the announcement. Trump Tower Chicago is expected to have 2.4 million to 3.1 million square feet of space. The developers may want the tower to be as tall as 1,500 feet, making it the world's tallest building, but that is not certain.

According to preliminary plans, the complex will house luxury condominiums, office and retail space, and possibly a hotel. Whether the new complex will include the Sun-Times headquarters remains to be determined. Three firms are vying are being considered for the commission: Lohan Associates, Skidmore Owings & Merrill and Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates. Trump hopes to have an architectural firm selected in about three weeks. Construction could start as soon as the beginning of next year and is expected to take at least three to four years.



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However, the site would need city approval and clean-up of the site would be needed before construction would begin. ([www.architectural-record.com](http://www.architectural-record.com))

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A company that develops Windows-based construction estimating software is grooming its product for e-procurement with a new version released June 25.

WinEst v. 6.0, from WinEstimator Inc., Kent, Wash., has added options for what company CEO Istvan Szabo calls “dynamic estimating cost data information flow” to and from compatible procurement portals. Those sites include the briefly-closed e-commerce service Contractor-Hub.com, also of Kent, which Szabo and others bought and revived as a separate company in February. Szabo says the goal is to let estimators convey detailed

specifications from WinEst directly to suppliers on the Web as requests for quotes, without having to leave the program's familiar interface.

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ASCE, 150

ASCE will begin formally celebrating its 150th anniversary at this year's annual conference



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The Italian Government has given the go-ahead for the building of a bridge across the Messina straight, to connect Sicily with the Italian mainland. When complete the Messina Strait Bridge will be the largest suspension bridge in the world, with a single central span measuring 3,3 km, carrying both road traffic and trains.

In April this year the Italian Ministry of Public Works, together with the Treasury approved plans for the construction of the Messina Strait Bridge, after more than 30 years of debate. It is proposed that the IL 10000 billion(5 billion) project, comprising road and rail

and exposition, which will be held in Houston October 10. 13. The celebrations in Houston will include the screening of a video prepared for use by ASCE sections and branches in public outreach activities and at the Society's 2001 History Congress. The video captures the excitement and complexity of engineering down through history. Created with footage from Building Big, the award-winning PBS series sponsored by ASCE, the video depicts recognizable projects throughout the world, explores the effect that civil engineering has had on the overall development of society, and shows how the field continues to affect life today.

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connections be built as a public private partnership, with at least 50% of the cost of the scheme coming from private sources.

In addition to the bridge, the Government has also announced plans to improve the infrastructure of Sicily and in Calabria, with the aim of bringing these regions to the same level as Italy and indeed. These decisions were taken on the basis of the results of the studies carried out by the advisors both on the financial and on the technical aspects.

Plans to build a fixed link between Sicily and mainland Italy date back to December 1971 when law no. 1158 described the works as being of national interest. In the 1980s and early 1990s, feasibility study work was



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 (中國經濟新聞)

This country with grand history of politically motivated construction projects, from the ancient Great Wall to the massive Three Gorges Dam work-in-progress, is challenging its engineers again, this time at 16,000 feet above sea level.

carried out, and a preliminary design for a single span suspension bridge was completed in 1992. This was followed by a cost-benefit analysis and technical feasibility studies.

The studies found that a bridge over the Strait would be the only feasibly way of meeting the needs of freight and passenger transport, as well as providing the foundation for economic growth in the region. In direct terms alone, some 4600 jobs are expected to be created for the eight years of the construction work, and 500 people are expected to be required to operate the bridge once complete. As well as being the largest structure of its kind, the suspension bridge will have to resist earthquakes as fierce as 7.1 on the Richter Scale - severer than the earthquake that destroyed in Messina on 1908 - and winds as high as 216 Km/h. Traffic flow on the road deck is expected to be as high as 9000 vehicles per hour (140000 vehicles per day) with three lanes in each direction, and the double track railway will be designed for 200 trains per day.

Unlike bridges like the Oresund Bridge, the design of

the Messina straight bridge calls for both the rail and road components to be on the same level, and this means that the bridge will be more than 60 m wide, with a horizontal surface of more than 22 hectares. The two support towers for the bridge will be more than 370 m high and the deck will be suspended at a height of about ([www.construction-europe.com](http://www.construction-europe.com))

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