



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee
Releases the 2020 edition of the
EJCDC® E-500, Agreement Between Owner and Engineer
for Professional Services**

ALEXANDRIA, Va., April xx, 2020 — The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC®) today released 2020 edition of the *EJCDC® E-500, Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services*. The 2020 edition is the most comprehensive update of EJCDC’s flagship Owner-Engineer Agreement in more than 20 years.

EJCDC’s E-500 is typically used to engage an engineer’s services for a single, specific project. It is drafted for the design-bid-build project delivery system. With minor revisions, it is appropriate for design-negotiate-build project delivery, and can be adapted easily to use in contracting for primary professional services on a variety of other project delivery systems.

Project owners and engineering firms have relied on E-500’s overall content, risk allocations, and philosophical approach over the years. The 2020 edition remains consistent with prior standards. In addition, the 2020 E-500 Agreement contains focused improvements, more options, better guidance and instructions, and an improved structure.

EJCDC made a substantial effort to enhance and re-organize E-500’s exhibits to reflect evolving contract practice and improve ease of use. As the agreement and exhibit options for the engineering contract documents have grown over the years, it made sense to split E-500 into two manageable files. The Main Agreement and the Exhibits have somewhat different formatting foundations. Splitting them into two files allowed EJCDC to tighten the underlying formatting in each part, making revisions and supplementations by the user easier.

Thus, the 2020 edition of EJCDC’s E-500 is packaged and downloaded, upon purchase, in two parts as two separate MSWord files: (1) the Main Agreement and (2) the Exhibits A through J. Both files contain integral building blocks of an Owner-Engineer contract.

In response to user feedback, EJCDC made changes to the Main Agreement. Users reported that, unlike the Engineer's scope of services, the Owner's responsibilities typically remain constant from project to project. In addition, many public owners prefer to place the owner's responsibilities in the main agreement itself, reserving exhibits for specific scope of services, schedule, insurance, and pricing issues. Following this advice, EJCDC moved the contents of what was formerly Exhibit B, Owner's Responsibilities, directly into Article 2 of the Main Agreement.

EJCDC made the most significant changes in the content of E-500 to *Exhibit A, Engineer's Services*. Exhibit A serves as an industry resource to contractually describe a comprehensive scope of engineering services, from the planning stage through design, contractor selection, and construction, to post-construction services. EJCDC recognized that several key scope issues would benefit from being covered in greater specificity and detail. The 2020 E-500 Exhibit A update adds meaningful detail to many engineering service categories, and contractually articulates evolving industry practices, some for the first time in a standard design industry contract document.

Other significant updates to EJCDC E-500 include:

- A new consolidated schedule form for deliverables exhibit.
- Update and relocation of payment exhibit offering the user six standard compensation methods.
- The cost limit exhibit has been eliminated.
- Electronic documents protocol has been added.

The general content for the other Exhibits—the Amendment form (now Exhibit C), duties of the Resident Project Representative (RPR)(Exhibit D), Notice of Acceptability of Work (Exhibit E), Insurance (Exhibit G), Dispute Resolution (Exhibit H), and Limitation of Liability (Exhibit I)—was updated and reformatted, but remains substantively unchanged.

A detailed Summary of Changes to the 2020 edition of E-500 can be found here ([link to pdf online](#))

Since 1975, EJCDC has developed and updated fair and objective standard documents that represent the latest and best thinking in contractual relations for engineering design and construction projects. EJCDC documents are prepared by a committee of project stakeholders that include owners, contractors, funding entities, attorneys, professional liability insurers, and sureties. They are written with the intention to represent and distribute risk fairly and equitably among all parties to engineer-led construction projects.

EJCDC® documents are specifically written for public and private infrastructure and engineered facilities projects in the United States. The documents can readily be customized to suit each project's unique goals and regulatory requirements.

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC®) is a joint venture of major organizations of professional engineers:

- the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE);
- the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE); and
- the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

Buy EJCDC documents online at www.ejcdc.org.

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