

Chris Berg, Inc., Seattle, Wash., far outbid all other competitors on a \$7 million job for non-technical support facilities at the Safeguard Antiballistic Missile Sites in North Dakota.

The Berg bid was \$7,445,200 and was low bid of the seven giant firms which tried for the big job. Bid opening was conducted here Tuesday at 11 a.m., at the Westward Ho Motel by Col. Robert W. McBride, assistant division engineer, Western Division, Huntsville, Alabama.

McBride pointed out that the bids will be forwarded to Huntsville where a team of experts will study the bids and announce "notice to proceed" no later than April 2.

The contract calls for construction of the non-technical support facilities at the Safeguard sites at Nekoma and Concrete, ND. Included are construction of an office building; a community center for a housing area to be constructed at a later date; an enlisted men's complex to include meeting and recreation areas, and a chapel.

Army Corps of Engineers estimate of the cost for the job was announced at \$7,966,542. The Berg bid was \$521,342 lower than the government estimate, \$584,639 lower than his nearest competitor, and \$2,171,800 lower than the highest bidder.

Other firms submitting bids were from Iowa, North Dakota, Alaska, Minnesota, Texas, and Idaho. They, and their bids, were:

Twin City Construction, Fargo, ND, \$8,029,839; Burgess Construction, Fairbanks, Alaska, \$8,284,000; Weitz Co., Des Moines, IA, \$8,334,000; Allen M. Campbell Co., Tyler, TX, \$8,809,200; Orville E. Madson & Sons, Minneapolis, \$9,266,000, and Morrison-Knudsen and Associates, \$9,617,000.

More than 100 construction representatives, along with associated industries, attended the bid opening.

Another bid opening is scheduled Wednesday following the same schedule and procedure. The Wednesday bids are for construction of two Remote Launch Sites for the Sprint Missile. These are to be located seven miles northwest of Langdon, ND, and 17 miles east of Langdon. The construction of the two sites is bid as a package unit. Corps estimates of cost vary from \$5 million to \$10 million.

The housing construction program is expected to start at a later date, according to Corps spokesmen. The Corps has issued advance invitations for proposals on family housing "unique to the Grand Forks area." Lt. Col. Vern Davis said the family housing for the two sites at Nekoma and Concrete, ND, will consist of 200 two and three-bedroom houses. They will be factory built, prefabricated, relocatable modules. This will enable contractors to pour concrete foundations in good weather and work enclosed in inclement weather. A March 31 "pre-proposal conference" is scheduled with local and area architectural and engineering firms. The Corps of Engineers calls for completion of the housing project by October, 1972.