



USAID | HAITI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

To Whom It May Concern:

May 5, 2010

My name is John May and I was one of the Contracting Officers responsible for organizing the US Government's response to the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. The earthquake created one of the largest natural disasters that has struck in the last hundred years. Over 250,000 people died, \$1.3 Billion in property was destroyed and enough rubble was created to fill the Houston Astrodome five times over.

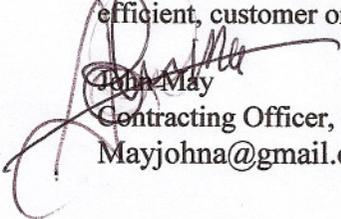
One of our tasks was to create a site where the rubble could be disposed, sorted, cleaned and used. The task was enormous as by our count about 100 trucks per hour were dumping rubble during daylight hours. When we started, this material was being dumped into the ocean, with no recycling. This had the potential for another major ecological disaster. Scavengers were scrambling onto moving trucks attempting to collect recyclable materials before they were dumped into the water. This was a major safety hazard. USAID was given the task of bringing order out of this chaotic situation and charged with creating a managed site where only clean debris was pushed into the ocean, and materials that could be recycled would be. To provide further pressure, internally displaced persons could not be moved as they had no place to go, until organized rubble removal could begin.

Into this challenging environment we invited PHS Group, Inc. a SBA 8(a) Haitian-American Engineering Consulting firm based in Silver Spring, Maryland. We invited them to Haiti on Thursday for a site visit on Sunday 02-28-10 and to prepare a presentation on Monday 03-01-10, with a start date one week later, should we be able to conclude a contract and they were able to assure us that they could do something. Mr. Siclait showed up with a team of four professionals, ready to the inspection and negotiated a contract. I was particularly impressed by the fact that he flew in to Santo Domingo, met with numerous contractors and equipment suppliers there, in order to proceed with all due haste. His team made a thorough site visit, assessed the site and working conditions and were able to provide USAID, the USACE and Military engineers a succinct and excellent presentation, which demonstrated that they had a clear plan for creating a debris management operation and that they could do so at the pace we demanded. While we were negotiating the contract terms, PHS simultaneously arranged for the arrival of the needed equipment, personal protective gear and materials to have the site running. It all paid off and within 24 hours after we concluded our contract, equipment to do the work was at the Haitian border

PHS' Herculean efforts to establish the site resulted in our being able to go from nothing to an organized site capable of handling up to 100 trucks per hour of debris all within ten days of signing a contract. They have been able to keep up the excellent work and impressed us with their "can do" attitude and the ability to accomplish results. A very favorable newspaper article was published by the Miami Herald, in which PHS was publicly praised. Of particular satisfaction to both our Controller and myself, was the fact that PHS was able to accomplish this within the US Government estimate and no cost overruns have occurred.

A final note is that on their own account they started a community service program, which included feeding transportation and medical services for their staff and the creation of a clinic in Cite de Soleil, a Port au Prince slum to serve the general community. In coordination with several NGO's they were able to assist people whose only access to health services is this clinic.

I highly recommend PHS Group as a Small Business who can run with the big contractors. They are cost effective, efficient, customer oriented. I would use them again in a heartbeat


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