

New Study Shows That Private Sector Engineers Are More Cost Effective

The use of private sector engineers for the design of public projects in New York State was found to cost at least 14 percent less than government in-house engineers, a just-released report by the Polytechnic Institute of New York University shows.

The ACEC Minuteman Fund helped finance the study which also found that consultants have more flexibility to meet fast-track deadlines than government agencies. [Click here](#) to view the study.

"The Polytechnic Institute findings confirm our long-held belief that increased use of private engineering firms is in the best interests of the state," says ACEC/New York Executive Director Jay Simson.

The results were formulated using comparative data for government engineers versus private engineers on: direct salaries adjusted for hours of work per week; fringe benefits including medical insurance, pension plans, survivors' benefits, workers' compensation, unemployment and social security insurance; and overhead.

Statistical information for in-house costs was based on April 2007 New York State Department of Transportation data. Private engineering firm statistics were derived from an April 2008 random sampling of salaries, benefits and overhead information from engineering firms throughout New York State. The statistics were indexed and adjusted using the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics' Employer Cost Index established for private professionals and related groups.