

News Clips

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New Vendors Selected for the ARE

Washington, DC—The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has signed long-term contracts with Alpine Testing Solutions, Inc. and Prometric, Inc. for the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). These two vendors were selected for their unique strengths that will allow NCARB to continue to provide the profession with the highest quality licensing exam, enhance the candidate experience, and position the ARE for a more agile future.

“The scope of services to deliver the ARE is vast and complicated. Rather than limiting ourselves to a single vendor, this best-in-class approach allowed us to focus on the individual services and assemble the best team to carry the ARE into the future, and move toward an enhanced and more friendly candidate and Member Board experience,” said Erica J. Brown, AIA, NCARB, Director, ARE.

The selection process for the new vendor(s) began in fall 2010 with a request for information. Following initial responses and evaluation, requests for proposals were sent to all qualified vendors in spring 2011. Qualified vendors were evaluated based on proposals submitted for one or more of three categories of service: content management, candidate management, and site management.

Alpine Testing Services, Inc. was selected to manage both the content management and candidate management services. This comprehensive effort includes support for the exam committees, creation and maintenance of all multiple-choice and graphic content, management of all candidate records and testing eligibilities, score reporting, and statistical analysis. Prometric, Inc. was selected to continue as a long-term partner with NCARB as the site management consultant focused on delivering the ARE to candidates in their extensive test center network.

“NCARB approached the selection of the next ARE vendors carefully and rigorously. The process, which took more than a year, will ultimately serve all of our stakeholders as the profession, NCARB, and the exam evolve,” said NCARB CEO Michael J. Armstrong. “I’m excited about the opportunities this new team provides.”

Partnering with these two vendors will enable NCARB to build, maintain, and continuously improve testing programs. Among the benefits that this change will bring to ARE candidates is an enhanced experience in terms of communication and scheduling. Continuing to provide a high quality test environment for candidates, with unparalleled access to test centers across the United States, was a critical component in the vendor selection process.

More information on future enhancements to the ARE program will be released throughout the migration process, which is anticipated to be complete in 2013.

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About NCARB

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' membership is made up of the architectural registration boards of all 50 states as well as those of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NCARB assists its member registration boards in carrying out their duties and provides a certification program for individual architects.

NCARB protects the public health, safety, and welfare by leading the regulation of the practice of architecture through the development and application of standards for licensure and credentialing of architects. In order to achieve these goals, the Council develops and recommends standards to be required of an applicant for architectural registration; develops and recommends standards regulating the practice of architecture; provides to Member Boards a process for certifying the qualifications of an architect for registration; and represents the interests of Member Boards before public and private agencies. NCARB has established reciprocal registration for architects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

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