



CHICAGO AIRPORT SYSTEM

CHICAGO O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Company profile

- Established in 1989, as Unison Consulting Group
- Became UNISON-MAXIMUS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Maximus 1999
- Acquired in 2008 by UCG Associates now doing business as Unison Consulting
- More than 100 airport clients have benefited from our firm's consultant expertise
- Experienced senior staff with more than 150 years of industry experience
- Firm's senior staff have held management positions with airports, airlines, the FAA, government consulting firms and other national aviation consulting firms
- Professional consultants are experts in economics, finance, retail concessions, airport planning, information technology, and airport management

Challenge

Since 2003 Unison Consulting (Unison), formerly UNISON-MAXIMUS, has provided program finance services to the City of Chicago O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), a separate City department with responsibility for the \$15 billion redevelopment of the O'Hare airfield. Specially, Unison's role is to provide support to the OMP to ensure that the City is achieving its goals of fiscal responsibility, contract compliance, timely payments, minority compliance, and ultimately modernizing the O'Hare Airport System.

In doing so, Unison provides finance and accounting services to support the department's capital development program including the auditing of capital invoices in accordance with the bond ordinance and OMP procedures, providing accounting for the internal funding accounts, and issuing financial reports on the status of the program. In addition, Unison provides program control services, consisting of reviewing and tracking annual project budgets, tracking minority contract compliance, and tracking and reporting construction and insurance retention. Unison also tracks actual expenditures and project progress against approved budgets and schedules and communicates results to Airport management.



Solution

- Manage the financial and audit requirements for the OMP
- Audit and approve invoices and payment vouchers
- Manage all aspects of the contract compliance and reporting
- Create a system for tracking payments, retention, and compliance
- Provide recommendation for process improvements and field audits
- Conduct impact analysis and ROI for new and changed projects
- Conduct special projects as requested

Results

- Access to real-time management reports
- Increased vendor accountability through audits
- Reduced annual contract overcharges
- Improved processes and procedures
- Identified potential cost overruns and compliance shortfalls
- Reduced time required to create construction and insurance retention reports
- Reduced the reliance on multiple fragmented computer systems and spreadsheets for information