

# Request For Proposal

Manufacturing Facility Consultant:  
Manufacturing Facility Feasibility and Ramp-up  
Town of Ashland, ME  
PROPOSALS DUE BY: May 31, 2022

## Background:

Ashland is a town in Aroostook County Maine. The population was 1202 at the 2020 Census. The Town of Ashland administers a grant-funded initiative called Original Mass Timber Maine (OMTMaine) aimed at attracting private investment and public economic development dollars for the processing and fabrication of Structural Round Timber (SRT) products in existing facilities within the Ashland-area.

## Project Overview:

The Town of Ashland, ME is accepting proposals for a Manufacturing Facility Consultant to study specific aspects of feasibility and ramp-up for an SRT processing and fabrication facility. The scope would result in a comprehensive report addressing the feasibility, ramp-up budget, and necessary infrastructure of/for a Northern Forest-sourced Structural Round Timber (SRT) manufacturing facility. All activity would be informed by work-to-date conducted by OMTMaine and its Ashland staff, Ashland SRT consultants, and SRT Advisory Committee.

## Project Goals:

Goal 1: Create a publicly available report that would be useful to the Town of Ashland, and other Northern Forest communities, as well as potential investors and stakeholders, in addressing the feasibility, costs, and required infrastructure for a phased ramp-up of SRT fabrication in the Ashland area.

Goal 2: Identify public and private funding opportunities for the SRT production ramp-up outlined by this Scope's eventual report. Funding opportunities may include Maine DECD Community Development Block Grants, USDA Rural Development Business Grants; other public funds available for rural economic development; and private investment.

## Scope of Work:

The Ashland-area SRT initiative known as Original Mass Timber Maine (OMTMaine) has an in-depth background in SRT fabrication as well as regional Maine business infrastructure and capabilities. This Consulting scope will work closely with OMTMaine leadership, first gleaning from OMTMaine expertise, and then applying that knowledge to this study.

The scope consists of a report reflecting the following areas of activity and study:

- Stakeholder round table to learn from existing Ashland-area SRT initiative (OMTMaine): the vision for, and requisites of, an SRT facility in Ashland.
- Learn from OMTMaine the SRT value-add chain as it is known to-date (debarking, grading, sanding, finishing, fabrication, assembly, etc.)
- Survey of existing local infrastructure available for a future SRT facility, as well as regional capabilities for each element of an SRT fabrication value-add chain.
- Analyze/corroborate/improve on the assumptions of OMTMaine in what it has identified as the skill sets required to meet production expectations and determine opportunities for leadership training, existing workforce training, infrastructure, and available funding for training
- Study existing local labor pool data pertinent to SRT fabrication.
- Determine opportunities for leadership training, existing workforce training, infrastructure, and available funding for training.
- Hypothetical ramp-up fees and the economic development dollars available for this activity
- Stages of ramp-up and the investment required at each stage.

### Target Deliverable Schedule:

The expected project completion date is September 1, 2022. If this date needs to be adjusted, please include your readjusted proposed date, as well as your reason for shifting the schedule. All proposed date changes will be considered.

### Budget:

The budget for this scope will be determined by the means and methods a consultant intends to achieve the outcomes listed in this RFQ. Please use the above "Scope" section to define activities within each topic and how those result in a proposed price. It is OMTMaine's intention to remain within a range of \$25,000-\$40,000. Additional funding may be available.

## Evaluation Metrics:

The Town of Ashland, ME will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Previous experience/past performance history consulting on similar projects
- Samples and/or case studies from previous projects
- Projected costs
- Ability to provide itemized detail of how the Scope of Work unfolds
- Experience and technical expertise with the required Scope of Work
- Capacity to achieve the required Scope of Work

## Submission Requirements:

Proposals are due 4 weeks from the release of this RFP on the Town of Ashland's website. A decision and subsequent contract will be offered after any eligible individuals or firms have been interviewed by OMTMaine leadership. Decisions will be made about 2 weeks after the close of the RFP solicitation.

## Contact Information:

Please submit your proposal to, and for questions or concerns connected to this RFP, we can be reached at:

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