



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 24, 2018**

# News Release

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## **Measuring the Strength of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in New Jersey's Construction Industry**

**Edison, NJ** – On Friday, September 21, Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey and our industry partners presented a first-of-its-kind study of the capacity of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises certified by New Jersey transportation agencies.

*Capacity*, defined as the volume of work a firm is capable of performing efficiently during a given period of time, is often difficult for prime contractors to gauge when they are selecting subcontractors. But public construction jobs issued by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and New Jersey Transit come with DBE goals contractors are encouraged to meet.

ACCNJ and its labor-management partners formed the New Jersey Construction Alliance and commissioned a study to quantify and validate the issue of measuring capacity. EuQuant, an Atlanta-based economics research company, the first to measure the actual capacity of minority and women-owned businesses in the construction industry, produced a comprehensive study of DBE capacity based on data from NJ Transit and NJDOT projects.

EuQuant's research shows DBEs in New Jersey have a significantly greater capacity than in many other states, but only a select few have the capacity to perform the biggest public transportation contracts. "New Jersey is leading the way in solving DBE capacity issues," said Dr. Thomas Boston, Founder and CEO of EuQuant. "All parties are willing to sit down at the table to increase transparency and understanding of DBE capacity and find ways to break down the barriers for DBE success in the industry."

"We did our homework," agreed Jack Kocsis, CEO of ACCNJ. "Now we'll all work together to make realistic, attainable goals while at the same time striving to bring more DBEs into construction. Our collective solutions will benefit ACCNJ members, our partners, the agencies and the citizens of New Jersey."

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### **About the New Jersey Construction Alliance**

Formed in 2016 to address the need to improve qualified DBE identification, the New Jersey Construction Alliance is a consortium of management and labor organizations. Members include Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey, Utility & Transportation Contractors Association, Carpenter Contractor Trust, New Jersey Laborers' Employers' Cooperation & Education Trust and Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative. For questions about the Alliance, contact ACCNJ offices.

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