

Editor's note: In case you've been living under a moon rock lately, this is a parody.

Strange things keep appearing in my mailbox. First it was that Hootie Johnson green committee tape. Now it's this Request for Qualifications from someone at Halliburton. Who would have thought the U.S. government's most trusted ally was about to get into the golf course business?

Since the golf construction business is slumping, I feel it's my duty to pass along this information so the best candidates can come forward and offer their services.

Request For Qualifications

For: The Links at Moon National Golf Course Project Design and Construction Observation Services.

From: The Office of the Senior Vice President, Interplanetary Leisure, Halliburton, Cayman Islands Division.

Statement of Qualifications must be returned by 4:30 p.m., April 1, to Halliburton, P.O. Box 1, Tax Shelter Haven Drive, Grand Cayman.

Project Description

The U.S. government, in conjunction with Halliburton Interplanetary Leisure, intends to build a 54-hole championship golf complex on 875,000 premium acres of the moon. The Maria section (which comprises about 16 percent of the moon's surface) consists of huge impact craters that remain well-suited for golf because of many flattish expanses ideal for the royal and ancient sport.

The unusual terrain for these three signature courses offers stunning views of the earth and sun, with, as what one golf expert has described, "the most amazing terrain on the moon for golf."

Most of the moon's surface is covered with regolith, a mixture of fine dust and rocky debris produced by meteor impacts. Samples of regolith returned by the Apollo missions have shown that this lunar hydrogen may be of use someday as rocket fuel and the perfect top-dressing for USGA greens.

Water-ice exists in several deep craters near the moon's south pole, which is permanently shaded. Therefore, irrigation for the courses is available, though it will be kept underground to

Get Thee to the Moon, Architects

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



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avoid any problems that might occur in the minus 240 degree Fahrenheit temperature. Therefore, signature waterfalls and lakes should not be incorporated into design submission plans.

The Selene Course should be designed by a noted PGA Tour player with a surviving member of the Apollo missions. A qualified landscape architect will be provided to the winning bidder.

Routed amidst town homes starting in the low \$5 millions, the Selene Course will stretch to 43,000 yards with room to grow based on expectations that the USGA still will have not found a way to regulate the sport by Selene's projected construction start date in 2012.

The Artemis Course and the Luna Course will offer unique landscapes and views as well, traversing meteorite craters. Estate sites will start in the low \$15 millions.

Required Submittals

- A financial statement of qualification, not to exceed 15 pages, highlighting the applicant's qualifications to perform the services as described herein as well as descriptions of design intent and cost structuring goals (hint: make sure to leave a little extra built into those travel and fuel costs for your friends at Interplanetary Leisure).
- A statement of experience detailing successful use of USGA greens, signature design projects and other elements likely to help socialize the cost and privatize profits from this exciting venture.

Pre-Submittal Site Tours

There will be no pre-site visits for this project, but extensive topographical maps will be provided upon request.

Geoff Shackelford's new book is titled The Future of Golf in America. For information about the book, visit www.geoffshackelford.com.