

Brightline station subcontractor owed \$23.1M for unpaid work, lawsuit alleges

By [Debora Lima](#) – Reporter, South Florida Business Journal , Jan 9, 2018

A subcontractor hired to help build the downtown Miami station of Brightline has filed a lawsuit alleging it's owed more than \$23 million for additional work required due to poor planning and operations practices on the project.

ADF International Inc., a subsidiary of publicly traded Canadian company ADF Group Inc., has sued Brightline MiamiCentral general contractor Suffolk Construction Inc., project architect and engineer [Skidmore, Owings & Merrill](#) LLP, and All Aboard Florida, the company developing Brightline.

Brightline is expected to debut this week with limited service between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, with trips to Miami coming later this year.

The lawsuit pertaining to the MiamiCentral station, which ADF filed in Miami-Dade Circuit Court, alleges breach of contract by Suffolk and negligence claims against Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and All Aboard Florida, whose corporate parent is Miami-based Florida East Coast Industries LLC.

ADF alleges that, in its role as steel contractor for the 11-acre train station, it was saddled with extra work due to errors and omissions in building plans, which did not comply with the Florida Building Code or the code of standard practice of the [American Institute of Steel Construction](#).

At the heart of the complaint, said ADF attorney Stuart Sobel, is a combination of faulty planning, lack of oversight and miscommunication along the “chain of command” that included Suffolk, Owings & Merrill and AAF.

“We kept trying to get Suffolk to sit down with us and settle up on the extra costs, and either Suffolk wouldn't put somebody who was up to speed across the table from us, would punt or flat-out refused to meet,” said Sobel, a shareholder of Coral Gables law firm Siegfried, Rivera, Hyman, Lerner, De La Torre, Mars & Sobel.

Suffolk declined to comment, citing the pending litigation, and All Aboard Florida could not be reached for comment.

ADF is seeking payment for alleged additional work valued at about \$23.1 million, plus 5 percent interest and reimbursement for attorney fees.

https://www.bizjournals.com/southflorida/news/2018/01/09/brightline-station-subcontractor-owed-23-1m-for.html?ana=e_ae_set1&s=article_du&ed=2018-01-09&u=12822337234f05c39e8080ba2aedd9&t=1515532380&j=79475821