

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	12934	Agenda Number	27.
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Meeting Date:	March 1, 2012
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Department:	Purchasing
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Subject

Authorize award, negotiation and execution of a 12-month supply contract with PARADIGM TRAFFIC SYSTEMS, INC., for EtherWAN ethernet switches to support a new traffic management software system including a seven year warranty for the Austin Transportation Department in an amount not to exceed \$408,784.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of the Austin Transportation Department.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	Sole Source
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Denise Lucas, Deputy Purchasing Officer/974-1766
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Boards and Commission Action:	
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MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

This contract is for the purchase of EtherWAN Ethernet switches which will be required to support a new traffic management system. Part of the project is to upgrade the current system to an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) communication technology with a more advanced and cost effective Internet Protocol (IP) based communication system. A pilot project for this was begun two years ago. Bids to purchase IP switches were requested a couple of times and both times the low bid was for EtherWAN equipment. The switches were purchased and installed successfully. EtherWAN has provided ATD staff with training on the equipment and the product and support has been acceptable.

Capital Metro is planning new rapid bus routes. This service will include bus priority service at traffic signals along these routes. While our current central signal software does not provide this feature, the new ATMS project includes the Bus Priority System feature. Capital Metro is under a deadline to begin this new service, and so is the ATD. Their plan is to begin this new bus service in 2013. The City and Capital Metro have an agreement specifying certain implementation dates for the bus priority system. The agreement indicates pilot testing of the bus priority system is to be completed by the end of May 2012 and full readiness is due by the end of February 2013. In order to fully implement the new ATMS and bus priority system feature, new IP based switches must be acquired and installed for the existing traffic signal controllers.

ATD has substantial time and money invested in EtherWAN switches. Currently, one third of the existing switches are EtherWAN. A mixture of products could result in complications, technical issues, and lack of compatibility. It would also delay the project since we would have to develop new specifications and get trained on other products. As we have done with our traffic signal controller software, it is beneficial to utilize one type of product assuming that the prices are competitive. In the case of EtherWAN, that equipment was the low bidder on two separate solicitations. The EtherWAN equipment includes a 7-year warranty.