

**CITY OF AUSTIN – PURCHASING DEPT.  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION  
VENDOR NAME: FRONTIER ASSOCIATES LLC.**

**AGENDA DATE: 03/28/13**

**SUBJECT:** Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 60-month requirements service contract with FRONTIER ASSOCIATES LLC. to provide hosting, support, upgrades and technical project enhancements and training for the Green Building Online Rating System for Austin Energy in an estimated amount not to exceed \$304,460.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding in the amount of \$30,446 is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining 54 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Art Acuna, Senior Buyer/ (512) 322-6307

**PURCHASING:** Sole Source

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** To be reviewed by Electric Utility Commission on March 18, 2013.

**MBE/WBE:** This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C 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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This contract with Frontier Associates LLC., Austin, TX, will provide web hosting, maintenance and technical support, program upgrades for internal and external user communication, and satisfaction enhancements for Austin Energy's Green Building Online Rating System (ORS).

On May 8, 2008, Council approved the purchase of a five-year competitive contract with Frontier Associates for the development and provision of an application service provider (ASP) hosted web-based tool to automate Green Building business functions. Since then, this tool has been used by Green Building staff and their clients. It supports the management and maintenance of the Green Building project rating process, the database, and case studies, and it integrates with Austin Energy's website. This ASP hosted web-based tool also supports the following business functions: 1) applications to participate in the Green Building program, 2) rating projects, 3) making changes to the ratings scorecards used to rate projects, 4) evaluating and certifying projects as Green Buildings, 5) maintaining a database of rated projects and the impacts of ratings on those projects including energy and water use, 6) maintaining a directory of Green Building professionals, 7) maintaining a collection of case studies, and 8) creating a variety of standard and ad hoc reports.

Since the system has been operable, Frontier Associates has provided web hosting, maintenance in the form of help desk support and technical support, and has provided programming for upgrades to enhance internal and external user communication and satisfaction. The vendor has also provided programming to develop the application requirements for managing the Green

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Building rating process. This continuity of knowledge and experience with the tool, with Austin Energy's Green Building staff, and with customers is an integral part of the success of this program.

Frontier Associates is the sole provider of maintenance and support for this patented and copyrighted software and they have no authorized providers for this service. Without this support, Austin Energy would not be able to update and respond to changes in City codes or rate residential, multi-family and commercial construction projects in a timely manner. It would also reduce Austin Energy's ability to achieve goals for energy efficiency and demand response, and therefore, reduce the utility's ability to meet the goals of the Resource Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2020.