

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

28689

Agenda Number

10.

Meeting Date:

December 12, 2013

Department:

Contract Management

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with TRC ENGINEERS, INC. or one of the other qualified responders to RFQ Solicitation No. CLMP134, to provide engineering services necessary for Telecom/Fiber Make-Ready Work, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$500,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remainder is contingent upon future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:

The staff recommendation was determined as the most qualified firm of three firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

Prior Council Action:

For More Information:

Allen Small, 512-505-7111; Garrett Cox, 512-974-9423; Lacy Kuslo, 512-974-7141; Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749.

Boards and Commission Action:

To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on November 18, 2013.

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

Additional Backup Information

Telecommunication and fiber-optic communication providers such as AT&T, Google, Grande Communications, Sprint, and others utilize Austin Energy's distribution poles to provide services to area residents. Equipment is attached to poles according to standards and fees set by Austin Energy. These service enhancements necessitate safety and engineering make-ready efforts, including evaluating existing infrastructure and identifying modification if needed. Telecom/fiber companies will analyze each impacted distribution pole and recommend to Austin Energy which poles require further evaluation or modification. Austin Energy is responsible for the review of these recommendations.

There are approximately 100,000 utility poles in Austin Energy's distribution system. The make-ready project is anticipated to impact up to 1,200 utility poles per month. The projected review workload is above the capacity of existing Austin Energy staff; therefore, additional engineering services are required. The recommended firm will provide a team capable of meeting this workload. The firm will also be capable of specifying materials needed per Austin Energy Distribution Construction Standards. The recommended firm will work closely with Austin Energy personnel and telecom/fiber companies' engineering and design staff to evaluate the distribution system for impacts from the make-ready efforts.

The work includes:

- Confirming that poles recommended by telecom and fiber companies require further evaluation
- Field inspecting the impacted poles to gather necessary information for design purposes
- Performing and checking engineering calculations to confirm actions required for impacted poles
- Verifying which poles need to be upgraded or replaced
- Verifying which poles require guying additions or modifications
- Creating distribution construction prints
- Specifying materials required
- Following utility-approved safety procedures on-site and in the field
- Wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment

In addition, TRC Engineers, Inc., the recommended firm, is expected to perform all necessary steps to review the distribution pole loading analysis calculations provided by the telecom and fiber companies, including but not limited to the following:

- Confirm analysis is consistent with agreed-upon philosophy between Austin Energy and the companies
- Field inspection of pole locations
- Verify telecom and fiber companies' engineering calculations
- Perform engineering calculations
- Verify recommended poles for upgrade
- Verify recommended guying additions/modifications
- Accompany Austin Energy to meetings with telecom and fiber companies
- Sign and seal engineering drawings

This authorization provides for funding of services related to civil engineering and design.

This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder selected by City Council. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council for selection of another qualified responder and authorization to proceed with contract negotiations.

No goals were established for this solicitation; however, the alternate firm identified an area of subconsulting.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 1,328 firms on August 9, 2013. The RFQ was obtained by 57 firms, six submitted qualification statements, and three firms were evaluated. None of the firms were certified MBE /WBE firms.

RECOMMENDED FIRM: TRC ENGINEERS, INC.

ALTERNATE FIRM: ENERTECH RESOURCES, LLC.

TRC Engineers, Inc. is located in Austin, TX.

Enertech Resources, LLC, is located in Austin, TX.