

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)**

Austin City Council	Item ID:	41300	Agenda Number	19.
Meeting Date:	March 5, 2015			
Department:	Purchasing			
Subject				
Authorize award, negotiation and execution of a contract with DOBLE ENGINEERING COMPANY for the purchase of three-phase relay test sets for Austin Energy in an amount not to exceed \$236,020.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is attached.				
Purchasing Language:	Sole Source.			
Prior Council Action:	[REDACTED]			
For More Information:	Gage Loots, Supervising Senior Buyer, 512-322-6251			
Boards and Commission Action:	February 23, 2015 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 5-0 with Commissioners Meijer and Rai absent.			
Related Items:	[REDACTED]			
MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded as a sole source and is exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program.			
Additional Backup Information				

This contract is for the purchase of four three-phase relay test sets for Austin Energy. These test units are used in conjunction with relay test software to run automated tests on substation relays by simulating power system conditions during normal operation and in the case failures, faults and other system disturbances. These tests are required to insure electric grid reliability and meet the regulatory requirements of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). These units test microprocessor and electro-mechanical relays and are compatible with all relays used in the power grid system.

The test sets provide protection scheme testing for distribution and transmission systems, end-to-end testing of communication based schemes used on Austin Energy transmission lines and also interface with end-to-end testing on transmission lines that tie to other utilities. This product allows Austin Energy to meet the mandated NERC guidelines for commissioning and maintenance testing of relaying equipment and schemes that provide transmission and distribution protection and control.

Austin Energy standardized on this relay test set as a result of a competitive solicitation issued in January 2014. To reduce labor costs, reduce human error and reduce cycle time, standardization is necessary because each test set requires very specific and extensive training, set up configurations and documentation requirements. Doble Engineering Company is the sole manufacturer of this product. The necessary support services such as annual calibration of the units and other support and training are only available when the products are purchased directly from Doble Engineering Company.

The current contract for the lease for two of these products expires on April 28, 2015, and if we do not approve, we run the risk of not having the ability to use the two current units, nor the additional two units being added to Austin Energy's equipment inventory. This may affect Austin Energy's electric grid reliability and ability to meet regulatory requirements.