

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	47817	Agenda Number	40.
Meeting Date:	August 20, 2015			
Department:	Purchasing			
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month contract with GE INTELLIGENT PLATFORMS INC, to provide software licensing and technical support for Austin Water in an amount not to exceed \$93,639, with two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$92,551 for the first option and \$95,327 for the final option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$281,517.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$15,606 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget of Austin Water. Funding for the remaining 10-months of the initial contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.</p>				
Purchasing Language:	Sole Source			
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Jonathan Harris, Senior Buyer Specialist, 512-974-1771			
Boards and Commission Action:	August 12, 2015 – Recommended by the Water & Wastewater Commission on a 9-0 vote.			
Related Items:				
MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded as a sole source and is exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program.			
Additional Backup Information				

The contract is for technical support, maintenance and license renewals for GE Proficy Globalcare software. This software is used in the daily operations of Austin Water treatment facilities including treatment plants, water distribution facilities and wastewater collection facilities. This software is part of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system required to monitor and control the process equipment at these facilities. It is a critical system for Austin Water operations at these facilities and is used 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

Staff from Austin Water and the City's Computer and Technology Management Department has been working with GE since October 2014 to develop a new support contract to replace the previous support agreement. However an agreement was not reached until now due in part to the complexities of changes in GE software licensing and support pricing structure. As this software is highly specialized and proprietary, Austin Water is currently not able to upgrade any of the software or get technical support, increasing the risk of potential problems in operating the SCADA systems.

The proposed contract, when adjusted for timing and changes in the number of licenses now needed, represents an approximate 62% increase in cost over the previous agreement. However, given that the proposed agreement provides for an additional 44 % more licenses than the previous agreement, staff believes that this support contract reflects a reasonable cost for the anticipated services to be provided.

GE Intelligent Platforms owns all intellectual property related to the GE Proficy Globalcare software and is the manufacturer and sole distributor of this proprietary software and doesn't have any resellers or allow others to provide associated services to users.