

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

71232

Agenda Number

37.

Meeting Date:

June 15, 2017

Department:

Purchasing

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with ABB INC., to provide gas-insulated substation design services and equipment, in an amount not to exceed \$679,020.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing
Language:

Sole Source

Prior Council
Action:

For More
Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@ austintexas.gov or to the buyer, Darralyn Johnson, at 512-505-7293 or Darralyn.Johnson@ austinenergy.com

Boards and
Commission
Action:

May 15, 2017 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 9-0 vote, with two vacancies.

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

Sole source contracts are exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9 C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

Additional Backup Information

In 2015, Austin Energy System Operations lost supervisory control of the Fiesta Substation gas-insulated switchgear (GIS) breakers. After troubleshooting with the assistance of ABB Inc., it was determined that the displays of the REC580 relays had failed which prevented the supervisory control of the breakers. Although the REC580 relays were obsolete, ABB was able to build or obtain enough displays to replace the failed units and restore supervisory control. The event and these temporary corrections emphasize the urgent need to upgrade the GIS control system.

To maintain safe, reliable control of the substation, the obsolete REC580 relays and the process interface for sensors and actuators (PISAs) must be replaced. The PISA units supervise and regulate the operating system for the circuit breakers and ground isolation switches. Austin Energy is using internal engineering/field technical labor and contract engineering services to perform most of the design and implementation, but also must utilize ABB engineering staff to provide proprietary knowledge of the existing configuration and new equipment.

ABB equipment must be used because the existing equipment was manufactured by ABB and no other manufacturers' equipment is compatible with the proprietary design. ABB owns the intellectual property rights to spare and replacement parts for ABB products and controls their manufacture and distribution. ABB is the sole provider and supporter of these services and equipment and provides these services directly to customers without distributors.