

Posting Language

Recommend approval to amend two contracts for continued Advanced Meter Infrastructure systems, including meters, meter installation, a data platform, and customer portal, with Meter Reading Holding, LLC dba Aclara Technologies, LLC or Aclara Smart Grid Solutions, LLC and Vertex U.S. Holdings, Inc. dba VertexOne Software LLC or Watersmart Software Inc, for an increase in the amount of \$7,934,000 for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$103,000,000, divided between the contractors.

MBE/WBE

This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) and subcontractor goals were applied to the solicitation. Subcontractor goals were exceeded, and the resulting contracts will include 18.84% MBE and 32.41% WBE for the advanced meter infrastructure category and 21.10% WBE participation for the meter installation category.

Lead Department

Financial Services Department

Client Department

Austin Water Assistant Director of Customer Experience, Randi Jenkins

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$7,934,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Capital Budget. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

Contract Amendment

Prior Council Action:

March 26, 2020 – Council approved the execution of a ten-year multi-term contract with Aclara Technologies, LLC to provide an Advanced Meter Infrastructure system.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

March 8, 2023 - To be reviewed by the Water & Wastewater Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

The contracts with Meter Reading Holding, LLC dba Aclara Technologies, LLC or Aclara Smart Grid Solutions, LLC and Vertex U.S. Holdings, Inc. dba VertexOne Software LLC or Watersmart Software Inc, were approved and executed in March of 2020. Since the start of the contracts, Austin Water (AW) and its contractors have arrived at the approximate halfway mark of its My ATX Water implementation. Over 110,000 Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters have been exchanged to date, replacing existing analog water meters with electronically read water meters. These meters are connected to a wireless network, removing the need to collect monthly meter-reading data manually. In addition to the 110,000 meters exchanged, the network configuration allows the meter read data to be made available to customers through the My ATX Water customer portal and for customer bills.

The network and the meters consistently meet and exceed performance expectations, even during extreme weather events.

The contract amendment is required for several reasons, but most significantly, to adjust for increased costs for many commodities resulting from the pandemic and follow-on inflationary pressures. It also includes the acceleration of enhanced software features to maintain data resiliency and redundancy throughout future years of the project. Additionally, continued projected growth in Austin over the contract's life will require higher quantities of Meter Transmission Units to be purchased. This request also adds expectations to existing field surveys to identify and capture the service line material at each location before the AMI conversion.. As such, the remaining contract authority must be increased to cover these items. This also includes an additional 5% contingency to allow for expeditious processing of any change orders. Approval of this amendment will allow for continued uninterrupted progress of the project.

Contract Detail:

Contract Term	Length of Term	Current Contract Authorization	Requested Additional Authorization	Revised Total Authorization
Initial Terms	3 to 7 yrs.	\$91,900,000		\$91,900,000
Extension Option 1	1 yr.	\$ 1,200,000		\$ 1,200,000
Extension Option 2	1 yr.	\$ 1,200,000		\$ 1,200,000
Extension Option 3	1 yr.	\$ 700,000		\$ 700,000
Contract Amendment				\$ 66,000
Proposed Amendment			\$7,934,000	\$ 7,934,000
TOTAL	5 to 10 yrs.	\$95,000,000	\$7,934,000	\$103,000,000

Note: Contract Authorization amounts are based on the City's estimated annual usage.

Strategic Outcome:

Government that Works for All.

M/WBE Summary

Participation goals were established for Project Category 2 - AMI System in the solicitation and were 3.58% MBE and 1.31% WBE. The recommended contractor's M/WBE Compliance Plan exceeded goals with 18.84% MBE and 32.41% WBE participation and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department.

Project Category 2 - AMI System

NON - MBE/WBE TOTAL - PRIME	20.06%
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Adara Technologies, LLC, St. Louis, MO

MBE TOTAL - SUBCONTRACTORS	18.84%
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(MA) Asakura Robinson, Austin, TX	12.44%
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[Planning, site (installation and project)]

(MA) Civiltude, Austin, TX	6.40%
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[Planning, site (installation and project)]

WBE TOTAL - SUBCONTRACTORS	32.41%
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(FB) Adisa Communications, Austin, TX	9.40%
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(Communications, public relations)

(FW) Studio Balcones, Austin, TX	23.01%
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[Planning, site (installation and project)]

NON MBE/WBE - SUBCONTRACTORS	28.69%
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Civil Design Incorporated, St. Louis, MO	6.49%
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(Network design and install)

Drenner Group, Austin, TX	22.20%
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[Planning, site (installation and project)]

Participation goals were established for Project Category 5 - Meter Installation in the solicitation and were 1.76% MBE/WBE combined. The recommended contractor's M/WBE Compliance Plan exceeded goals with 21.10% WBE participation and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department.

Project Category 5 - Meter Installation

NON - MBE/WBE TOTAL - PRIME	63.86%
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Adara Technologies, LLC, St. Louis, MO	

WBE TOTAL - SUBCONTRACTOR	21.10%
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(FW) SE Packages Inc. d/b/a Tres Mujeres Construction Company, Austin, TX (Plumbing, construction services, general)	

NON MBE/WBE - SUBCONTRACTORS	15.04%
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Badger Daylighting Corp, Motorsports Way, Brownsburg, IN (Site preparation, excavation support)	

Scott-Nairns, LLC d/b/a MetalWork Austin, Austin, TX (Metal work)	7.48%
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