



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2362, **Agenda Item #:** 62.

7/20/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for upgrades and licenses for test benches with OW Investors LLC d/b/a MARS Company, for a term of five years in an amount not to exceed \$476,831.

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

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Austin Water.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$15,894 is available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget of Austin Water. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

Sole Source.

For More Information:

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2500.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

July 19, 2023 - Item not reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission due to a meeting cancelation.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide an upgrade to the MARS Company Series 2400 and Series 10000 Test Bench Systems. Austin Water's (AW) Meter Operations use these test benches to conduct water meter accuracy testing on new and existing meters for customer service and billing purposes. MARS M3 enterprise software suite exclusively operates the MARS Test Benches which consistently provide reliable test results to ensure water meters perform according to specifications. These upgrades will improve efficiency and meter accuracy, allow testing of lower flow rates, and provide automation features allowing the operator to perform additional functions while executing the meter test. The upgrades will also enable increased serviceability while reducing test times. The system will include calibration tanks, installation, training, and an annual software service agreement.

This contract is replacing an existing contract that expires on August 14, 2023. AW established the requested contracted authority based on its historical patterns, current meter population, and metering growth estimates. The recommended contractor is the current provider of these goods.

AW's MARS Test Bench Systems will only be operational if a contract is secured. Without a contract, AW could not certify meter accuracy and bill customers appropriately.

OW Investors LLC d/b/a MARS Company is the sole provider of the MARS Test Bench Systems.