A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

AGENDA

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Purchasing Office **Item No. 66**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a 12-month requirements supply contract with DC SYSTEMS, Pleasanton, CA, to purchase an interface software system and support services to provide a communications path to control pole-top distribution from Austin Energy's Energy Control Center, in an estimated amount not to exceed $115,710, with four 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed $5,910 per extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed $139,350.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of $115,710 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining 10 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Terry Nicholson, Sr. Buyer 322-6586

Purchasing Language: Sole Source.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chaper 2-9D of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission.

This contract is for the purchase of an intelligent communication gateway interface software system (ICG) to facilitate communications between the GE Distribution Management System (DMS) and the Landis+Gyr (L+G) radio system utilized by Austin Energy's System Operations.

The DMS involves a host computer system (GE Enmac) communicating with pole-mounted equipment on the distribution power network. The L+G radio system provides the wireless connections to and from field devices allowing Austin Energy to serve the customer more effectively and efficiently before and after a power outage occurs. Through this Distribution Automation (DA), System Operators should be able restore power to many customers within a few minutes of an outage through remote control, before trouble crews are dispatched. The DA equipment will report to the DMS, important distribution system information on a continuous basis allowing the System Operator to respond and prevent potential problems. Additionally, these devices will collect and transmit real time information on the status of the distribution network allowing for load flow analysis and system modeling to allow increased performance and efficient grid operation. Combining this functionality with the DA capability is commonly referred to as Smart Grid.

DC Systems' ICG system software is the only interface system capable of providing the communications link between the DMS and the L+G systems, and is only available from the manufacturer.