

AGENDA



Thursday, August 20, 2009

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 24**

Subject: Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month requirements supply contract with ZONAR SYSTEMS INC., Seattle, WA, for the purchase of truck-mounted hardware and access to a web based electronic vehicle maintenance inspection reporting system for Austin Energy, in an estimated amount not to exceed \$83,483, with four 12-month extension options for access to the web based system in an estimated amount not to exceed \$25,000 per extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$183,483.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount for \$83,483 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the extension options is contingent upon approval of future budgets.

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

For More Information: Gabriel Guerrero, Buyer II, 322-6060

Purchasing Language: Sole Source.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 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 will provide access to ZONAR's web based electronic vehicle maintenance inspection reporting system (EVIR). The contract also includes the one-time purchase and installation of necessary hardware to equip approximately 100 Austin Energy vehicles to operate with this system.

City departments are required to perform Texas Department of Transportation pre-trip and post-trip vehicle inspections on commercial class vehicles exceeding 26,000 pound gross vehicle weight rating. These include bucket trucks, boom trucks, and some service body trucks.

The EVIR system will replace the existing manual inspection process with an electronic method that is quicker and easier to conduct and will reduce errors and inefficiencies associated with paper inspection forms. This system offers a simple tag, inspect, transmit, and track system.

The EVIR system consists of the following components: a hand-held reader, Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and a vehicle mount. There are three types of RFID tags: 1) an Asset tag containing information about a specific vehicle; 2) a Zone tag containing information about areas or zones of the vehicle, and 3) a Driver tag, which identifies the employee conducting the inspection.

Weather resistant RFID tags are placed on the vehicle in critical inspection zones. These tags contain information about their location on the vehicle, components to be inspected, and vehicle identification. Using the handheld reader, drivers can conduct required vehicle inspections by placing the reader within a few inches of each tag indicating the zone's condition with one-handed, push-button responses. When

defective components are detected, the driver selects the defect description from a pre-defined list which indicates whether the vehicle is safe to operate. After the inspection is complete, the driver places the handheld reader into the vehicle mount. The information is then transmitted to a secure database that can be accessed from the employee's or supervisor's web browser. This enables the reporting and tracking of vehicle maintenance, driver performance, regulatory compliance, and overall operational efficiency.

As vehicles are retired, system hardware may be removed and reinstalled on replacement vehicles. ZONAR Systems Inc. is the original equipment manufacturer and sole supplier of the EVIR system.