Thursday, September 24, 2009

Purchasing Office   **Item No. 61**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a 12-month requirements contract with SUN-NET CONSULTING, San Jose, CA for the purchase of an Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) compatible transmission outage scheduler (TOA) software application for Austin Energy in an estimated amount not to exceed $228,500, with three 12-month extension options for maintenance in an estimated amount not to exceed $17,000 per year, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed $279,500.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of $6,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding in the amount of $222,500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining months of the original contract extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Art Acuña, Senior Buyer/322-6307

Purchasing Language: Sole Source.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C 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 Electric Utility Commission.

This contract is for the purchase of a transmission outage application (TOA) compatible with the ERCOT Outage Scheduler, implementation, maintenance, and training for Austin Energy (AE). The contract consists of $135,000 for a one-time purchase of a software license and interface, $87,500 for customization, $6,000 for training, and $17,000 per year for three years of annual software maintenance. This implementation will fulfill AE's roles and responsibilities as a full service ERCOT Transmission Distribution Service Provider operating in compliance with the protocols of the Texas Nodal Market. TOA is an integrated application for Outage Coordination, Switching Order writing and Dispatch logging. It comes with ERCOT program interface and is compliant with the North American Electric Reliability Council - Transmission Availability Data System, Phase-I requirement. It is the only software package in North America that contains these major functions and with ERCOT program interface, which is why 48 control centers in North America are currently using TOA application. In Texas, utilities such as CenterPoint Energy, Oncor (TXU) and CPS Energy have purchased TOA. American Electric and Power and LCRA are currently in the process of purchasing TOA as well. TOA also has a unique function that allows neighbor utilities (e.g. LCRA) to be able to communicate outage requests conveniently to each other with reduced redundant work and eliminating potential error in the communication process.

The Transmission Outage Application System provides the following integrated functions:

1. Switching Requests/Approval Processing, Outage Coordination and Notification Process
2. Switching Order Writing Module
3. Real-time System Operator /Dispatch Daily Log/Shift Change Log

4. Substation Entry / Exit Log
5. Interruption/Disturbance Tracking and Reporting (monthly, monthly vegetation, annual report)
6. System Status and Operation Activity Reporting
7. Shift Change Report
8. ERCOT Automatic Program Interface.

The TOA is solely manufactured and supplied by Sun-Net Consulting and will be specifically designed, dedicated, and optimized for AE in managing transmission outages in an ERCOT Nodal Market environment. The TOA will be separate from its current in-house scheduling method, but will be compatible with that of ERCOT's to allow AE to report outages directly into ERCOT's scheduler, thereby significantly reducing if not eliminating errors and saving valuable time.