

AGENDA



Thursday, November 19, 2009

**Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 25

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with ASTRIX TECHNOLOGY GROUP, Edison, NJ, for engineering services for the Laboratory Information Management System Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Susan Davis 972-1404; Debra Dibble 974-7027; April Thedford 974-7141

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of two (2) statements received.

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

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Laboratory Services Division (LSD) is responsible for providing analytical services to the Austin Water Utility (AWU), to some City departments and less frequently to some local government entities.

The Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is a computer based data management system which is used by the Laboratory Division to track information regarding the samples analyzed by the laboratories. The information stored and managed by this system includes sample collection and analysis times, testing conditions, analytical instrument conditions, quality control data and testing results. This system is also used to produce reports based on the analytical results of the tests.

While the current system provides basic LIMS functionality, it is lacking features found in many modern LIMS such as Quality Analysis/Quality Control charting, analytical instrumentation interfaces, container tracking, sample status monitoring, data security measures, and other advanced automation and validation functions

AWU plans to replace the existing LIMS with a commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) LIMS package that replaces all functionality of the existing system and provides enhancements in automation, processing, security, reporting, quality system management, document management and integration with other applicable City and AWU applications to a level that enables the laboratories to be operated and maintained effectively and efficiently while meeting all NELAP (National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program) accreditation and TCEQ/EPA laboratory approval requirements. The new system will also provide an efficient and reliable means for the use of existing and future laboratory data for process control, regulatory reporting and decision making by treatment plant staff, engineers and utility management.

The selected firm will provide assistance to the Laboratory Services Division (LSD) of AWU to perform a needs analysis and process review to determine system requirements. Services will also include

development of a Requirements Document sufficient to procure a new LIMS system from a separate vendor (System Provider) based on accepted requirements, development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be sent to LIMS providers, evaluation of submitted proposals for LIMS systems, recommendations for selection of a new LIMS and support to LSD in implementing the new LIMS.

This request allows for the development of a professional service agreement with the recommended firm. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the recommended firm, negotiations will cease with that firm. Staff will then return to Council and request authorization to begin negotiations with the alternate recommendation listed below.

Recommended Firm: Astrix Technology Group; Alternate Firm: Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.