

AGENDA



Thursday, August 26, 2010

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 30**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a 36-month requirements service contract with ACLARA SOFTWARE INCORPORATED, Wellesley, MA, for online energy audit services in an estimated amount not to exceed \$339,300, with two 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$118,755 per extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$576,810.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$9,425 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining 35 months of the original contract and the extensions is contingent upon funding in future budgets.

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

For More Information: Terry Nicholson, Senior Buyer/322-6586

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 the Electric Utility Commission.

Since 2002, Austin Energy (AE) has offered residential and commercial customers the opportunity to conduct an online energy audit on their home or business through AE's website. Aclara was initially selected through a competitive bid process to provide AE with the development of an online audit for AE customers. Once the customer enters their home or business characteristics, the data is saved, allowing customers to return at a later date to update their data regarding any energy improvements made.

This contract with Aclara will provide continuation of an annual license maintenance and operations fees to continue the residential and commercial online energy audit services currently offered to residential, multi-family and commercial electric customers.

The online Energy Audit tool educates and assists customers with identifying how energy in the home is being used/consumed and provide the homeowner/customer with a host of potential solutions that should be considered to help reduce energy consumption, creating awareness, and result in a potential reduction in utility bills. The service provides residential, multi-family and commercial customers 24-hour access to an easy-to-use, online program. The online audit software allows customer input of household or business characteristics, energy use of appliances, and "what-if" scenarios for different efficiency levels of appliances. The software provides instant data reports displaying energy consumption and makes recommendations so that customers can achieve a reduction in their energy consumption. The software also provides Residential and Business Equipment Calculators to project energy savings for specific types of appliance or usage patterns.

A recent feature redesigned the Business Energy Center Benchmark score to display commercial facilities' benchmark results as a score value (0 to 100). The benchmark score provided by the Business

Energy Center is one of two approved rating tools approved by the City of Austin and Austin Energy for commercial facilities to comply with the City's Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure (ECAD) ordinance. The ACLARA Business Energy Center Benchmark is also the only rating tool capable of providing a rating to commercial facilities under 5,000 sq/ft in size.

Aclara holds copyrights to its proprietary software; therefore, this product is only available through Aclara. Due to the ongoing investment made in this service, it is essential that AE continue to contract with Aclara.