

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

12170

Agenda Number

35.

Meeting Date:

January 26, 2012

Department:

Purchasing

Subject

Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month requirements service contract ARINC ENGINEERING SERVICES, LLC, to provide radio frequency engineering support at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in an estimated amount not to exceed \$171,026, with four 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$176,202 for the first option, \$181,534 for the second option, \$187,026 for the third option, and \$192,707 for the fourth option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$908,495.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$114,017 is included in the Fiscal Year 20011-2012 Operating Budget of the Department of Aviation. Funding for the remaining 4 months of the original contract period and the extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:

Single Source.

Prior Council Action:

For More Information:

Brenda Helgren, Sr. Buyer/974-9141

Boards and
Commission Action:

Recommended by the Airport Advisory Board.

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.

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

This contract will provide radio frequency (RF) engineering support for the Aviation Department (Aviation) at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). ABIA is a relatively small location with a large number of RF users and consequently there is always the possibility of interruptions to, and interference with, other ongoing radio traffic. Considering that some of this traffic includes communications between airline pilots flying into ABIA and the air traffic controllers on the ground, there is serious potential for interruptions that may have life threatening consequences. With the increased implementation of wireless technologies at the airport the potential for harmful interference with serious consequences continues to grow.

ARINC serves as the primary provider of engineering support associated with the maintenance, troubleshooting, and upgrade of the in-building bi-directional antenna system (BDA) that supports the coverage of the City's public safety 800 MHz trunked radio, TSA radio system, and both the Department of Aviation and airline ground communications within the terminal building. This BDA was designed and implemented by ARINC prior to the opening of the airport. They have also worked on behalf of the Aviation Department, ABIA with the City's Wireless Communications Office to solve various coverage and interference issues within the terminal building. ARINC was instrumental in assisting the Department and the FAA in determining the cause of a critical navigational system interference issue. ARINC provides valuable supervision and inspection of the airline radio systems, alerts Aviation and the tenants to potential hazards. They work with the airlines to assist in resolving interference and signal issues.

The airport continues to see an increase in the implementation of wireless devices used to monitor various types of equipment within the terminal (elevators, baggage handling system, fire extinguishers) and in use by its tenants. Additionally, the airport has begun an internal mobile workforce initiative that utilizes a third party provided wireless connection on the airfield and throughout the terminal. ARINC currently assists Aviation in coordinating and documenting all of these devices and networks and their transmitting frequencies. They continue to monitor and map the frequencies used on the airport and in the surrounding area to alert Aviation of potential interference with critical communications and systems. These developments underlie the importance of Aviation receiving good expert advice on what frequencies can be used at what times to mitigate potential RF conflicts among all the many radio users at ABIA.

ARINC Engineering, Annapolis, MD, continues to be the leader in the area of RF coordination and RF system engineering in high RF environments. Moreover, in providing services under the current contract, ARINC has unrivalled intimate knowledge of what has been going on at ABIA during the last 12 years. ARINC led the radio system design and installation during the construction and opening of the airport and has substantial on-site experience and knowledge of the airport and tenants.