

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	17849	Agenda Number	36.
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Meeting Date:	August 23, 2012
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Department:	Purchasing
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Subject

Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a contract with GE ENERGY CONTROL SOLUTIONS, INC. for the purchase of an upgraded control system for Austin Energy's Sand Hill Energy Center Unit 5 turbine and generator in an estimated amount not to exceed \$274,619 and maintenance and support services for 60 months in an estimated amount not to exceed \$92,633, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$367,252.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$274,619 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Capital Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the maintenance and support services is contingent upon available funding in future Operating budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	Sole Source.
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Gage Loots, Buyer II/512-322-6118
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Boards and Commission Action:	To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on August 20, 2012.
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Related Items:	
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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.
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Additional Backup Information

This contract with GE Energy Control Solutions Inc., Mansfield Texas, is for the replacement of the Sand Hill Energy Center Unit 5 Mark VI control system Human Machine Interface (HMI) including associated hardware and software and to provide on going maintenance and support services. The Mark VI control system monitors all turbine and generator parameters required for unit operation. The HMI is the interface between the operators and the Mark VI controls using a Microsoft Windows NT operating system, GE Cimplicity software, and GE provided hardware. The HMI provides operators a visual representation of the unit and enables efficient real-time control and monitoring of the system and auxiliary equipment.

The existing HMI, hardware and software are eight years old and beyond their design life. In addition, the Windows NT operating system is no longer supported by Microsoft. Previous failures of HMI hardware have resulted in unit outages and continued use of the existing equipment may result in additional unit outages. The upgrade includes new HMI with the Windows 7 operating system, new hardware, and the latest GE software. The Windows 7 operating system will allow access to the latest Microsoft patches and virus protection; increasing network security. This upgrade improves unit reliability by reducing the potential for outages, and the associated increase in cost to serve Austin Energy customers. Sand Hill Energy Center Unit 5 is Austin Energy's most efficient gas fired generator.

GE Energy Control Solutions, Inc. is the sole manufacturer and developer of the proprietary hardware and software required to complete this upgrade and does not permit outsourcing of these products and services through third-parties. Therefore, GE Energy Control Solutions, Inc. is the sole source provider of the products and services to be provided under this contract.

The original contract for purchase of the current control system for this software was issued as a competitive solicitation in 2004.