

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	44417	Agenda Number	2.
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Meeting Date:	5/7/2015	Department:	Austin Energy
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Subject

Authorize the negotiation and execution of a three-year membership agreement with the ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE for research programs related to grid-connected battery storage, smart grid technologies, and more efficient transmission, distribution, and generation operations, in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$300,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for remainder of the agreement is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

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

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087; Khalil Shalabi, Vice President, Market Operations and Resource Planning (512) 322-6520.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	April 20, 2015 – Approved by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 6-0.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Membership in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) will focus on programs that will allow Austin Energy to collaborate with other utilities and increase its understanding of technologies such as grid connected battery storage, smart grid technologies and more efficient transmission, distribution and generation operations. Austin Energy will also participate in programmatic efforts in sustainability and industrial safety. Austin Energy has been a member of EPRI for nine years.

The electric utility industry as a whole spends less than 1% of revenues on research and development, the lowest amongst any large industry in the United States. As the advancement in technology continues, the understanding and participation in the research and development required to advance relevant technology becomes more critical. Membership in EPRI provides a cost effective way for utilities to pool resources and participate in research projects that add value to their present and future operation.

The Electric Power Research Institute was established in 1973 as an independent, non-profit center for public interest energy and environmental research. EPRI brings together member organizations, its scientists and engineers, and other leading experts to work collaboratively on solutions to the challenges of electric power. These solutions span nearly every area of power generation, delivery, and use, including health, safety, and the environment. EPRI's members represent over 90 percent of the electricity generation in the United States and several European and other utilities.