

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

54111

Agenda Number

37.

Meeting Date:

February 25, 2016

Department:

Purchasing

## Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with DOBLE ENGINEERING COMPANY for the purchase of three-phase relay test sets in an amount not to exceed \$254,045.

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

## Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing  
Language:

Sole Source

Prior Council  
Action:



For More  
Information:

Darralyn N. Johnson, Buyer II, 512-505-7293

Boards and  
Commission  
Action:

February 22, 2016 - To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission.

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

The contract is exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore no subcontracting goals were established.

## Additional Backup Information

The contract is for the purchase of four three-phase relay test sets for Austin Energy. These test units are used in conjunction with relay test software to run automated tests on substation relays by simulating power system conditions during normal operation and in the case failures, faults and other system disturbances. These tests are required to insure electric grid reliability and meet the regulatory requirements of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). These units test microprocessor and electro-mechanical relays and are compatible with all relays used in the power grid system.

The test sets provide protection scheme testing for distribution and transmission systems, end-to-end testing of communication based schemes used on Austin Energy transmission lines and also interface with end-to-end testing on transmission lines that tie to other utilities. This product allows Austin Energy to meet mandated NERC guidelines for commissioning and maintenance testing of relaying equipment and schemes that provide transmission and distribution protection and control.

Austin Energy standardized on this relay test set as a result of a competitive solicitation issued in January 2014. To reduce labor costs, reduce human error and reduce cycle time, standardization is necessary because each test set requires very specific and extensive training, set up configurations, and documentation requirements. Doble Engineering Company is the sole manufacturer of this product and only sells direct to customers.

The current contract for the lease for two of these products expires on April 28, 2016. This contract is critical to maintaining the ability to use the two current units by purchasing replacements, while also increasing Austin Energy's equipment inventory by two additional units. This purchase is necessary to maintain Austin Energy's electric grid reliability and the ability to meet regulatory requirements.