

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: August 9, 2018

Item Number: 037

Purchasing Office

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with OW Investors LLC D/B/A MARS Company, for the upgrade of software and system components on water meter test benches including ongoing license and support fees, for a term of five years in an amount not to exceed \$412,000. (Note: Sole source contracts are exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department	Purchasing Office.
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$13,701 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of Austin Water. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.
Purchasing Language	Sole Source.
For More Information	Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov or to the buyer, Georgia Billela, at 512-974-2939 or Georgia.billela@austintexas.gov .
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	July 11, 2018 - Approved by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 7-0 vote, with Chair Moriarty and Commissioners Turrieta, Michel, and Schmitt absent.
Client Department(s)	

	Austin Water.
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Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide upgrades to the Austin Water meter testing benches. The Contractor will upgrade series 2400 and 10000 water meter accuracy test benches to MARS Gravimetric Systems which will provide greater accuracy, testing of lower flows, and automation features. The benches were installed in 2000 and have not been upgraded since. The upgrades will allow for more meters to be serviced with less time taken per test. The result for the City is increased productivity, more accurate meters, and increased recovered revenue. The upgraded systems will include automation that will allow the operator to perform other functions while executing the meter testing. The system will include calibration tanks, installation, training, and an annual software service agreement.

This is a new contract for the City and is as a result of a consultant conducting an assessment of the meter shop processes and recommending the benches be upgraded. The upgrades will improve efficiency and allow testing at lower flow rates than currently possible. The current benches are functional and are certified as accurate, but the upgrade enhances the benches with new capabilities. The upgrades will also provide repeatable accuracy testing for new meters purchased by Austin Water customers.

OW Investors LLC D/B/A MARS Company is the sole provider of upgrades to its test benches and does not allow any authorized representatives to provide sales, service, maintenance or technical support when selling directly to a water utility.