



**Purchasing Contract
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 44
AGENDA DATE: Thu 01/13/2005
PAGE: 1 of 2

SUBJECT: Authorize execution of a contract with AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC., Wilmington, DE, for the purchase of a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer for the Austin Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$92,470.04.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Approved Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Purchasing
DEPARTMENT: for Police;

DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Vickie Schubert

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Mick Osborne, Sr. Buyer/974-2995

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: Sole source.

MBE / WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9 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 purchase.

This contract is for the purchase of a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, auto sampler, data workstation and printer for the Austin Police Department Crime Lab. The gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer system (GC/MS) is the main instrument used for the identification of narcotic substances. The instrument is capable of separating a narcotic substance from the cutting agents and provides a molecular identification of the substance based on the fragment pattern generated by the mass spectrometer. Currently, the APD Crime Lab has three Agilent Technologies GC/MS instruments controlled by a central data workstation. The central data workstation controls all three systems and is used to create and store analysis methods; to collect, store and process data; and to provide spectral library search capability. Libraries, report formats, and customized macro programs are employed from the workstation simultaneously for all systems. This closed process creates results that are extremely consistent and reliable. The data is then used in court presentations.

This purchase will replace the oldest GC/MS purchased in 1985, which had been upgraded to allow interface with the other systems. It has not been supported by Agilent Technologies since September 2001 and there is no guarantee on parts availability.

A sole source purchase is required as the replacement unit must be compatible with the other Agilent GC/MS systems already in use at the APD Crime Lab, be able to interface with the existing spectra file libraries (nineteen years worth), create custom reports, and process raw data without a third party conversion of data. The data required for court presentations cannot be manipulated or altered by third party software.



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APD has generated thousands of analyses and data files and developed an extensive library on the current Agilent GC/MS systems. The lab must be able to access and reanalyze this data when identifying substances that are brought in for testing. These data files are in a data format that is proprietary and copyrighted by Agilent. Agilent Technologies is the only manufacturer and the sole supplier of the unaltered GC/MS systems.