



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 19  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 08/04/2005  
PAGE: 1 of 2**

**SUBJECT:** Authorize execution of a contract with SEARCH SYSTEMS, INC., Bakersfield, CA, for the purchase of remote imaging devices for the Emergency Medical Services Department in an amount not to exceed \$65,774.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding is available in the Office for Domestic Preparedness, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2004 Grant.

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

**REQUESTING** Purchasing  
**DEPARTMENT:** for Emergency Medical  
Services;

**DIRECTOR'S  
AUTHORIZATION:** Vickie Schubert

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mick Osborne, Senior Buyer/974-2995

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** N/A

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**PURCHASING:** Lowest bid of three bids received.

**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 solicitation.

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This purchase of two Searchcam VLS (victim location system) remote imaging devices, one Recon II remote imaging device, and two Delsar Life Detectors will provide technical search equipment to be used by the Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services system for use in collapse search and rescue operations.

Searchcam VLS and Recon II are remote imaging devices that are used to extend the rescuer's sense of vision and hearing into the voids of collapsed structures. The VLS is a highly mobile system that provides rescue personnel with the ability to introduce a remote camera / microphone up to 92" into a collapsed building. The Recon II is a smaller version of the VLS, offering quick search capability through debris piles and into confined spaces.

Delsar Life Detectors allow rescue personnel to pinpoint victims trapped in a collapse by detecting movements, knocking, or calling. The sensors pick up small vibrations transmitted through the concrete and steel, and relay them to the search team as audible and visual signals.

The purchase of this technical search equipment is conducted in partnership with the Austin Fire Department and Austin Police Department as part of a comprehensive enhancement to local search and rescue capability. This capability, which does not currently exist locally, was determined to be a priority by the City's Homeland Security Operations Group.

This purchase will also include various spare parts such as batteries, cables and sensors.



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MBE/WBE solicited: 3/0

MBE/WBE bid: 0/0

**BID TABULATION  
IFB # MO05100110  
REMOTE IMAGING DEVICES  
(11 line items)**

| <b><u>VENDOR</u></b>                                 | <b><u>TOTAL BID</u></b> |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Search Systems, Inc.<br/>Bakersfield, CA</b>      | <b>\$65,774.00</b>      |
| <b>Americas Computer Company<br/>San Antonio, TX</b> | <b>\$67,575.25</b>      |
| <b>Security Safety<br/>Houston, TX</b>               | <b>\$72,762.00</b>      |

**PRICE ANALYSIS**

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. Ninety-two notices were sent, including three MBEs. There are no WBE firms listed under this commodity code. Nine bids were issued, including one MBE. Three bids were received with no MBEs responding.
- c. This is a first time purchase; therefore, there is no price history.

**APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION**

- a. Lowest bidder.
- b. The Emergency Medical Services Department concurs with the recommended award.
- c. Advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and on the Internet.