



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 29  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 03/11/2004  
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**SUBJECT:** Authorize execution of a contract with APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS, Foster City, CA, for the purchase of DNA laboratory equipment for the Austin Police Department Forensic Unit in an amount not to exceed \$50,120.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 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, Senior 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 solicitation.

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This contract is for the purchase of additional DNA testing and analysis equipment required for the Austin Police Department's DNA Laboratory. Two pieces of equipment are being purchased, one thermal cycler and one sequence detection system.

**Silver 96-Well GeneAmp® PCR System 9700 with Temp Verification (Thermal Cycler)**

This thermal cycler is used to amplify DNA material. DNA material taken from a crime scene is at the cellular level or smaller. The forensic testing kits used to process the DNA material require it to be amplified millions of times for the test to produce a result. Amplification of the material is required to perform the DNA analysis with the ultimate goal of identifying the person who left the DNA material at the crime scene. The DNA lab currently has two thermal cyclers, an Applied Biosystems Model 9600, which is currently out of production and is no longer supported by factory maintenance, and a Model 9700. Two polymerase chain reaction (PCR) systems are required to keep up with the current workload of the DNA Laboratory. The DNA amplification process takes 3 ½ hours to process a group of samples. This second Model 9700 will replace the Model 9600. The 9600 will be retained as a back up and will also be used for training purposes.

**ABI PRISM 7000 Sequence Detection System**

Applied Biosystems has created ABI Quantifiler DNA quantitation kits using real-time PCR, a new process for forensic quantitation of DNA extracts. It is highly sensitive and can tell the DNA analyst if there is no DNA in the sample or if too little is present for further testing. It is critical to have an accurate reading of how much DNA is in a sample so that the proper amount will be amplified by the Model 9700 thermal cycler. Additionally, real-time PCR quantitation lets the analyst know if an inhibitor (something



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inhibiting the processing, such as some dyes found in clothing) is present in the sample prior to amplification, thereby allowing the analyst the opportunity to remove the inhibitors, continue the testing process and obtain a viable DNA sample. The current quantitation method does not use a PCR process or identify if inhibitors are present. The DNA analyst has to perform steps manually making it a more labor intensive, time consuming and subjective process. Using this new method is more effective, efficient and technically advanced, saving the analyst time and producing a more reliable result, which expedites the related police investigation.

This sole source purchase is required due to compatibility with existing equipment. Applied Biosystems is the manufacturer and sole source of the equipment.