



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.:** 54  
**AGENDA DATE:** Thu 12/16/2004  
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**SUBJECT:** Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with the ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Palo Alto, CA, for the lease of a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle and related participation in an alliance project to test the potential of new hybrid drive technology, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

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

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

**REQUESTING** Purchasing  
**DEPARTMENT:** for Austin Energy;

**DIRECTOR'S**  
**AUTHORIZATION:** Vickie Schubert

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carole Martindale, Purchasing Mgr./322-6155

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** Resolution 040729-78 regarding the integration of the electric and transportation sectors.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended by the Resource Management Commission.

**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 lease of one Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle (PHEV) for Austin Energy, to participate in a contractual alliance project with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). The vehicle has sophisticated electronic controls that permit the use of battery and internal combustion energy to be combined in a very efficient manner, especially in stop and go urban driving. It is intended for use in commercial and delivery fleet operations. It is anticipated that the PHEV will result in a fuel reduction of up to 40%.

This research project is coordinated through EPRI, a nationally recognized entity in the power industry, who has partnered with Daimler Chrysler to develop, produce and test the vehicles. The participants are also highly visible entities who are providing funding through the vehicle lease to allow research and testing. Participation by Austin Energy will contribute to Austin's standing as a leader in conservation and alternative energies.

The vehicle can be plugged in to energize the batteries that will power the electric drive hybrid. Austin Energy is interested in the development of vehicles that can be powered by electricity because of the potential of increasing off peak power usage and decreasing transportation emissions in our service area.

Austin Energy will be a member of the 30 Vehicle Alliance that will test the vehicles for a period of three years. Other members include New York Power Authority and Southern California Edison, the United



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States Army and Los Angeles South Coast Air Quality Management District. Austin Energy will receive 1 of the 30 vehicles produced by Daimler Chrysler. Austin Energy will gain first hand knowledge to share with the City's fleet customers regarding the potential of hybrid drive technology.

The new technology could provide strong support to sustainability in our transportation systems through electrification. Energy security and reduced emissions are critical to the long-term economic health of our communities. Participation in the PHEV analysis is a small but important step to achieve these objectives.