

A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

AGENDA



Thursday, July 27, 2006

[Back](#) [Print](#)

Purchasing Office RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ITEM No. 81

Subject: Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a contract through U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance with GTSI Corp., Chantilly VA, and PowerGrid Communications (Subcontractor), to conduct a technical trial to design, build and operate a full service Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) Network from August 1, 2006 through February 1, 2007, in an estimated amount not to exceed \$250,000, with three 90-day extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$22,500 per extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$317,500. Additionally, staff is authorized to negotiate and execute agreements with U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, GTSI and PowerGrid Communications for these services.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Amended Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding in the amount of \$75,000 is available in the 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of Austin Water Utility. Funding in the amount of \$75,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of Communications and Technology Management. Funding for the extension options is contingent upon approval of future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not needed.

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

No Attachments Available

For More Information: Peter Collins, CIO 974-2300

Purchasing Language: Cooperative Purchasing.

This contract is to conduct a technical trial with GTSI to design, build and operate a full service Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) Network.

BPL is a system that is being tested to provide broadband Internet service via power lines. Radio energy is coupled onto power lines and is distributed into homes. A device in the home plugs into a normal wall outlet and typically provides an Ethernet connection to a computer or home network.

This Technical Trial will provide for:

- Implementing a BPL network on a part of the overhead and underground MV electric grid of Austin (the "Network") which may include residential, commercial and multi-tenant premises and/or an Austin Energy facility.
- The delivery of the following Utility Services: -BPL Network and Grid Monitoring & Management -Electric and Water Automated Meter Reading -Demand Side Management
- The provisioning and delivery of consumer Broadband services as are enabled by the Network. The Technical Trial will be limited in size and scope by the number of BPL Nodes deployed, and will include up to 25 consumer end-users.
- The creation of an Internet Utility Web Portal for Austin for viewing critical information and obtaining program, community and other information.

Communications and Technology Management will provide all management and oversight as well as installation and support of the Technical Trial, which will run August 1, 2006 through February 1, 2007.