Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: May 10, 2018 Item Number: 037

Purchasing Office

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with The University of Texas at Austin to provide energy related research services for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$500,000. (Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required, there were no subcontracting opportunities, therefore no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department	Purchasing Office.
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$175,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Capital Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.
Purchasing Language	Professional Service.
For More Information	Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov or to Sandy Brandt, at 512-322-6594 or Sandy.Brandt@austintexas.gov Mailto:Sandy.Brandt@austintexas.gov .
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	April 16, 2018 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 6-0 vote, with Commissioner Tuttle recused, Vice Chair Hadden and Commissioner Reel absent, and two vacancies.
Client Department(s)	

Austin Energy.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide research on an as-needed basis to study the market impact of energy technologies. Austin Energy is committed to creating successful technological advances that make renewable, distributed generation a more reliable, efficient, and economically viable option. The University of Texas at Austin was selected for their groundbreaking research into new energy technologies and longstanding research partnership with Austin Energy. Research projects will support the goals of Austin Energy in the areas of advanced grid technologies, distributed generation, and energy efficiency. Within these areas, the contractor will research topics including: analysis of system cost and performance to assess energetic, economic and environmental tradeoffs of different fuel and technology options; building energy modeling, including the impact of devices such as solar panels, storage, and variable speed drives/motors, etc.; energy harvesting modeling; analysis of value stacking; business case development for technologies and processes; and other emerging technologies.

If a contract is not secured, the City will enter into one-time contracts, which will increase administrative costs and the time required to initiate projects essential to advancing Austin Energy's mission.