



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3488, **Agenda Item #:** 47.

12/5/2019

Posting Language

Authorize award of a contract with Radian Research Inc., for an advanced metering infrastructure meter farm, in an amount not to exceed \$265,000.

(Note: This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods required for this solicitation, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Purchasing Language:

The Purchasing Office issued an Invitation for Bids (IFB) 1100 DNJ1008 for these goods. The solicitation issued on April 8, 2019 and it closed on May 16, 2019. Of the three offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the lowest responsive offer. A complete solicitation package, including a tabulation of the bids received, is available for viewing on the City's Financial Services website, Austin Finance Online. Link: [Solicitation Documents](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=130491)
<https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=130491>.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or

AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to the solicitation's

Authorized Contact Person: Terry V. Nicholson, at 512-322-6586 or Terry.Nicholson@austintexas.gov

<<mailto:Terry.Nicholson@austintexas.gov>>.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

November 18, 2019 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 6-1 vote, with Commissioner Boyle voting no, Vice Chair Hopkins and Commissioners Funkhouser and Wray absent, and Commissioner Hadden off the dais.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide Austin Energy with an advanced metering infrastructure meter farm for testing electric meter operations, including communications and functionality. The meter farm consists of multiple electric

meters arranged in rows and installed outdoors on metal panels to represent a sample of a utility's total meter population.

The meter farm powers up banks of meters and runs a current load through each meter, serving as a cost-effective way to test communications, functionality and firmware upgrades from meter manufacturers. Meter farms are used as part of the qualification process prior to meter deployments and as a post deployment tool to test new releases of firmware over hundreds of meter points prior to upgrading the entire system.

The contract includes 230 meters from multiple manufacturers built on skids for portability and will provide Austin Energy with a long lasting way to test meters to assist in planning for future meter deployments.