
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: December 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Notice Of Award - Procurement Authorization – Enterprise Storage Upgrade

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive the notice of award of Chair Howard Moscoe and Commissioner Joe Mihevc, and the Acting Chief General Manager for the issuance of a purchase order to FlexITy Solutions Inc. in the total amount of \$838,613.57 for an Enterprise Storage Upgrade.

FUNDING

Sufficient funds for this expenditure are included in Project 7.1 Computer Equipment and Software, under Information Technology Infrastructure, as set out on Pages 1237 to 1246 of the 2006 - 2010 Capital Program - category: State of Good Repair, as approved by City Council on December 12, 2005.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of July 13, 2005, the Commission approved the revisions and updates to the Authorization for Expenditures Policy / Instruction, which states the *“The Commission delegates authority to the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Chief General Manager to authorize items on an interim basis that would normally be authorized by the Commission when the approval is required before the next Commission meeting. In the event that the Chair and/or Vice-Chair are not available, authority would be delegated to any two Commissioners and the Chief General Manager.”* These authorizations are to be followed up by a notice of award Commission report that is to be submitted to the next scheduled Commission meeting for information.

Over the last four years the TTC has built a concise and reliable server and SAN (Storage Area Network) infrastructure. The intent is to continue to expand the Enterprise Storage Infrastructure, by aligning business and technical needs, where equipment is housed in one location that provides the central processing and storage power demanded by the Commission’s business computing operations. The upgrade also provides for the provision of a back-up site for critical Commission systems in the event of a disaster at the main facility.

The Commission’s current Storage Area Network environment is at the end of its lifecycle and requires a solution to address capacity and expandability limitations.

The existing backup and recovery infrastructure will also be reviewed and optimized through this contract in order to reduce back-up times from the existing twenty-three hours to a manageable seven hours, this will allow the TTC to solve problems with backup and restore speed mainly arising during complex backup jobs.

DISCUSSION

Eight companies were invited to submit Proposals in addition to the public advertisement on the TTC website on August 23, 2006, out of which two companies submitted Proposals.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) requested that any standard agreement, which the Proponent proposes to be executed prior to any award of the contract, be submitted with the proposal. The Request for Proposal also contained a clause that indicates the Commission reserves the right to negotiate acceptable Terms and Conditions with proponents who the Commission has determined to have offered the best overall proposals.

The Request for Proposal included three Price Schedules (1A, 1B, and 1C). Price Schedule 1A listed hardware and software and requested two options: Option 1 was for a base system which specified the minimum requirements; and Option 2 (the preferred option) was based on a system that included additional functionality (e.g. additional hardware, built-in redundancy, which allows for on-line backup). Price Schedule 1B covered warranty and professional services requirements and Price Schedule 1C listed additional optional hardware items and the price for three years warranty for those hardware items, which the Commission would be free to select all or any portion at its discretion. The proponents were also requested to recommend items that the Commission may purchase for the Storage Upgrade.

Materials & Procurement staff performed an initial evaluation consisting of a commercial review. Upon completion of this initial evaluation both proponents; FlexITy Solutions Inc. (Flexity) and Infostream Technologies Inc. (Infostream) were considered commercially compliant and were evaluated further by staff based on pre-determined criteria as summarized on the attached Appendix "A". Prior to the Request for Proposal closing, staff determined that a total scoring of 75% or higher would be required in order to be considered acceptable and the selection of the recommended proponent would be based on the lowest priced qualified proponent.

Following the evaluation, both proposals were considered acceptable as each received a score exceeding 75% and staff reviewed the pricing submitted to determine the lower proposed pricing.

FlexITy submitted the lower proposed pricing and had the higher rated proposal. They submitted an agreement which has been reviewed by the Commission's Legal Department and is considered acceptable. As FlexITy has not previously performed similar services for the Commission, staff conducted reference checks, which indicated that this company has performed satisfactory work of a similar nature. FlexITy's proposal is considered commercially and technically compliant and is therefore recommended for award based on the preferred Option 2 as the pricing received for Option 2 is within the project budget.

Infostream submitted the higher priced proposal and had the lower rated proposal. They did not take any exceptions or qualifications to the Commission's Terms and Conditions and their proposal is considered commercially and technically acceptable, but is not recommended due to their higher pricing.

JUSTIFICATION

The award of a contract for upgrading the Enterprise Data Storage and Enterprise Backup is required to ensure continued supportability and improve the Commission's data storage and backup / recovery capabilities which ensures the Commission's critical business data is protected and available.

November 22, 2006

14.117.47

Attachment: Appendix 'A'

APPENDIX 'A'

ENTERPRISE STORAGE UPGRADE

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

	OPTION 1		OPTION 2	
	FlexITy Solutions Inc.	Infostream Technologies Inc.	FlexITy Solutions Inc.	Infostream Technologies Inc.
Price Schedule 1 A - Hardware & Software	\$273,190.80	\$408,592.35	\$347,863.43	\$522,363.26
Price Schedule 1 B - Warranty/Professional Services	\$232,967.53	\$399,503.47	\$232,967.53	\$399,503.47
Price Schedule 1C - Optional Hardware/Warranty **	\$198,888.07	\$254,411.51	\$198,888.07	\$254,411.51
Additional Hardware & Software Items Recommended by the Proponents	\$58,894.54	\$38,554.24	\$58,894.54	\$38,554.24
Grand Total	\$763,940.94	\$1,101,061.57	\$838,613.57 *	\$1,214,832.48

* Recommended for Award.

** The totals listed above for Price Schedule 1C are for the recommended items only. FlexITy Solutions Inc. bid a total of \$377,810.12 and Infostream Technologies Inc. bid a total of \$292,674.01 for Price Schedule 1C.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Functional Capabilities
2. Vendor Reliability and Support
3. Training
4. Documentation - Proposed Solution