

M Management Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 13, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: January 4, 2010

Subject: Sole Source for Hardware for a Data Backup System Upgrade

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to designate Network Appliance (NetAPP) as the sole source manufacturer for the acquisition of a disk-based data backup system.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Dave Hinrichs (Met Council CIO) and Micky Gutzmann (Manager, Contracts and Procurement) presented justification for this request to the Management Committee.

Dave stated that the Council's data is the lifeblood of all our services and we must back up our data on a daily basis to ensure that we can restore our operations quickly should we experience a system failure. The Council's current data backup system is more than five years old and the system needs to be upgraded. The Council's data storage hardware is manufactured by NetAPP and using hardware for the backup system from the same manufacturer is essential to ensure seamless integration. There will still be price competition because multiple vendors sell NetAPP hardware. There will also be procurement competition for the software that will be required as well.

A Council member asked about the FTA requirements that must be met. Micky responded that a portion of the cost of this project will be funded with FTA funds from Metro Transit's budget, so this procurement will comply with FTA requirements.

Once a selection panel reviews and evaluates all proposals for the hardware and software, approval to award the contract will be sought from the Management Committee.

The Management Committee approved this request on December 9, 2009 for inclusion on the consent agenda of the Metropolitan Council meeting on January 13, 2010.

M Management Committee
Meeting date: December 9, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

	Date: December 2, 2009
	Subject: Sole Source for Hardware for a Data Backup System Upgrade
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Dave Hinrichs, CIO, 602-1443, Pancho Henderson, 602-1627, Micky Gutzmann, Manager, Contracts and Procurement, 602-1741
Division/Department:	RA – Information Services / Dave Hinrichs, 602-1443

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to designate Network Appliance (NetAp) as the sole source manufacturer for the acquisition of a disk-based data backup system.

Background

The Council's current data backup system is more than five years old. The amount of data stored by the Council has grown substantially in recent years and backing up the daily changes to that data is necessary so we can restore operations quickly if we experience a system failure. The system needs to be upgraded to ensure that data can be backed up and restored quickly, reliably and securely.

The Council will competitively solicit proposals for additional hardware and intelligent software that manages and stores large amounts of data. Section 2.4.2.2.1 of the FTA Best Practices Manual states that, *"If a grantee believes that a specific brand name must be used in a specification and that it cannot accept any alternative product; i.e., it cannot allow a vendor to propose "an equal" product, the grantee must process this as a sole source (non-competitive) procurement action through the proper approving officials within the grantee's organization prior to release of the solicitation."*

Rationale

The Council's data storage environment consists of NetApp equipment. Standardizing on NetApp hardware for the new, upgraded back-up system will allow for seamless integration with the Council's existing storage environment and eliminate the need for staff training on a different system. Once the solicitation process is complete, we will return to the Committee for approval to award the contract.

Funding

Funds to replace the Council's disk backup system are available in the Council's budget. The total cost of the project, including hardware, software, and installation and support services is expected to be \$700,000. Approximately half of the funding will consist of FTA funds.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this proposal.