

Agenda Report

DATE: APRIL 28, 2003
TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: AWARD CONTRACT TO NTH GENERATION FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CITYWIDE DATA STORAGE AREA NETWORK.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Nth Generation for an amount not to exceed \$322,300; for the purchase and implementation of a citywide storage area network (SAN). Competitive bidding was not required pursuant to Section 1002(F) of the Pasadena Municipal Code, professional or unique services.

BACKGROUND:

In order to provide the capacity needed for critical internal systems the City needs to change its data solution from a per server-based storage system to a multi server-based storage system, a SAN. The reason for this requirement is that critical systems are outgrowing their existing storage capacity. This centralized approach to storage reduces costs and creates efficiencies. In addition, systems need to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for critical operational backups, after hours automated updates to databases, and for planned public service applications. This solution has been expected and planned for and funds have been included in the City's capital improvement budget for the past two years. Advances in technology not only provide greater functionality for the users, but also require more storage capacity than earlier generation systems.

Critical systems like payroll, Peoplesoft, GIS, the City's e-mail system and data file servers require significant increases in storage to meet immediate needs and will continue to require additional storage capacity over time as their databases continue to grow. Without additional storage, Payroll will not be able to run and the new Peoplesoft cannot be implemented. With limits on data enhancements, staff will be unable to make greater use of the existing investment in GIS applications. Furthermore, data storage for e-mail and staff files continue to grow

and much of the data on City servers is either of public record or are legal documents and must be stored.

In addition, the SAN solution provides centralized data storage for multiple servers by dynamically allocating space as needed. This reduces overall storage costs by maximizing the allocation of space that results in virtually no waste. It also supports on-demand scale-ability, unlike per server-based storage which must be completely replaced to increase capacity. An additional benefit includes centralized management, reducing staff time required for data administration.

The SAN solution will meet required demands for access to data 24 hours a day, 7 days operational requirements. It will also meet future public access to information and services. The existing storage solution does not support this high level of availability. The SAN provides the essential ability to backup production systems without taking them offline. If the City does not move in this direction on storage, planned technologies for public access will be halted, critical systems will be at risk and the City won't realize its return on investment in data storage.

In light of this, an RFP was issued in January 2003 to address the City's critical need for additional storage capacity and to identify a different and functionally superior storage solution. The RFP for a SAN included the hardware, software and implementation services. Notification was sent to 90 firms that had expressed interest in receiving City proposals. Seven firms responded to the RFP. The proposals were evaluated using the criteria set forth in the RFP, in accordance with the City's competitive selection process for professional services. The total points scored for these firms are detailed in Exhibit A.

It is recommended that, Nth Generation, the firm receiving the highest total points from the evaluation team, be awarded the contract for an amount not to exceed \$322,300. The proposed contract fully complies with the City's competitive bidding and purchasing process.

The expected timeline for implementation is 30 days from date of contract signature or approximately May 2003.

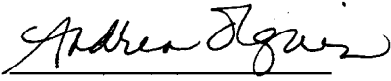
FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funds are available in the capital improvement budget, project number 71127.

Respectfully Submitted,

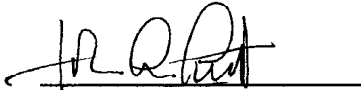

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