



June 10, 2021

To: Transit Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell E. Johnson", is written over the "To:" line.

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Award of Agreement for the Purchase of Battery Chargers for 40-Foot Plug-In Battery-Electric Buses

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors approved the purchase of ten battery-electric buses for use as a pilot for operation of OC Bus fixed-route service. Charging the buses will require a combination of electrical infrastructure provided by Southern California Edison through the Charge Ready Transport Program and battery chargers secured through a separate procurement. Staff is requesting Board of Directors' approval to award an agreement for battery chargers necessary to support the battery-electric bus pilot.

Recommendations

- A. Find La Marche Manufacturing Co. and Siemens Industry Inc., the apparent low bidders, as non-responsive for failure to bid on approved equipment that meets the technical specifications as identified in the invitations for bid.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-0-2731 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and One Source Distributors, in the amount of \$863,079, to provide ten battery chargers for 40-foot plug-in battery-electric buses.

Discussion

On October 8, 2020, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved the purchase of ten, battery-electric buses (BEB) as a pilot for operation of OC Bus fixed-route service. Two of the pilot buses are projected to arrive in September 2021. To support the charging of these vehicles, OCTA is partnering with Southern California Edison (SCE) and the Charge Ready Transport Program to provide electrical infrastructure at the Garden Grove Base. In order to qualify for the program, which covers the cost of the electrical infrastructure, only battery chargers from the SCE-approved list can be used in

conjunction with the SCE-installed infrastructure. As such, the only battery chargers that will be permitted for use are those approved by SCE, capable of delivering a minimum 150 Kilowatts (KW) of energy. In addition to the equipment being provided by SCE, OCTA is required to provide the BEB chargers. The chargers will consist of ten, 150KW battery chargers that will provide power to ten depot charging stations. The chargers can supply power evenly or sequentially to the charging stations. This allows buses to be intelligently charged in a manner tailored to the power and logistical needs of each bus. Once installed and connected to the SCE equipment, the chargers will provide the power, interface, and connection to the BEB. In addition to the hardware components, training for both charging station operators and the facilities technicians who will maintain the equipment is included in the pricing.

Procurement Approach

This procurement was handled in accordance with OCTA’s Board-approved procedures for competitive sealed bid procurements. These procedures, which conform to both federal and state requirements, are used when minimum requirements can be clearly specified and, therefore, the lowest price is the only criterion for choosing among the bidders who are responsive and responsible after a sealed bidding process.

On March 22, 2021, the Board authorized the release of Invitation for Bids (IFB) 0-2731 through OCTA’s CAMM NET system. The project was advertised on March 23 and March 29, 2021, in a newspaper of general circulation. A pre-bid conference was held on March 30, 2021 and was attended by three firms. Four addenda were issued to post the pre-bid conference registration sheets, respond to questions received, and handle administrative issues related to the IFB. On April 13, 2021, four bids were received and publicly opened.

All bids were reviewed by staff from both Contracts Administration and Materials Management and Maintenance Administration departments to ensure compliance with the contract terms and conditions, as well as technical specifications.

The list of bidders and bid amounts is presented below:

<u>Firm and Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
La Marche Manufacturing Co. Des Plaines, Illinois	\$348,000
Siemens Industry Inc. Windell, North Carolina	\$805,875

OneSource Distributors Oceanside, California	\$863,079
New Flyer of America, Inc. Winnipeg, Canada	\$1,224,542

The apparent lowest bidder, La Marche Manufacturing Co., as well as the apparent second lowest bidder, Siemens Industry Inc., submitted bids on chargers that are not on the published SCE-approved list at the time of bid submission, as required on the equipment specifications of the IFB. Therefore, these two firms were found non-responsive for failure to meet the required technical specifications identified in the IFB. As such, award is being recommended to OneSource Distributors, as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

The cost estimate for this project was \$1,406,072. The recommended firm's bid is approximately 39 percent lower than the OCTA project manager's independent cost estimate and is considered by staff to be fair and reasonable.

State law requires award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. As such, staff recommends award to OneSource Distributors, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$863,079, to provide ten battery chargers for 40-foot plug-in BEBs.

Fiscal Impact

The project was approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, Operations Division/Maintenance Department, Account No. 2114-9022-D2108-OUV, and is funded through the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program.

Summary

Based on the information provided, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-0-2731 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and OneSource Distributors, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$863,079, to provide ten battery chargers for 40-foot plug-in battery-electric buses.

Attachment

None.

Prepared by:

Approved by:



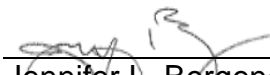
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