



***April 8, 2021***

**To:** Transit Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** Sole Source Agreement for Transmission Dynamometer Upgrade

### ***Overview***

The Orange County Transportation Authority utilizes a fleet of 498 compressed natural gas-powered 40-foot and 60-foot buses equipped with Allison transmissions. These units require a periodic rebuild performed by the Maintenance Department. A transmission dynamometer is used to test these transmissions after rebuilding to ensure they are operating within the manufacturer's specifications. The current dynamometer was last updated over ten years ago and lacks the technology to test the newer transmissions in the fleet. Staff is requesting Board of Directors' approval to initiate a sole source agreement to upgrade the current transmission dynamometer.

### ***Recommendation***

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute sole source Purchase Order No. A46961 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Power Test, Inc., in the amount of \$68,540, for the upgrade of the current transmission dynamometer control panel.

### ***Discussion***

The transmission is a major component of the buses' drivetrain and requires periodic rebuilding. A standard transmission rebuild replaces normal wear to components and brings the transmission back to the manufacturer's operating specifications. Performing this work in-house produces a more economical and reliable end product. Testing the rebuilt transmissions on a dynamometer ensures that the rebuild was done correctly and that the transmissions will perform as designed once installed in a bus. The current dynamometer's control panel and related software is obsolete and is no longer capable of testing the transmissions used in the newer buses.

---

***Procurement Approach***

This procurement was handled in accordance with The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors' (Board)-approved policies and procedures for a sole source procurement.

Power Test Inc. (Power Test) is the sole developer and proprietor of the control panel for the Hicklin Transmission Dynamometer and is the only contractor who can perform the services and supply equipment required to ensure the successful completion of the transmission dynamometer upgrade. Therefore, this procurement meets the guidelines for a sole source procurement, as the product is available from only one responsible source and no other supplier can meet the requirements.

Power Test's quote was reviewed by staff from Contracts Administration and Materials Management and Maintenance Specialty Shop Administration departments to ensure compliance with the contract's terms and conditions, as well as the technical requirements.

In accordance with OCTA's procurement policies and procedures for a sole source procurement, a sole source agreement over \$50,000 requires OCTA's Internal Audit Department (Internal Audit) to conduct a price review of the vendor's proposed pricing. Internal Audit's review found that pricing provided by Power Test to OCTA was comparable to other government agency pricing. Therefore, pricing is deemed fair and reasonable.

***Summary***

Based on the information provided, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Purchase Order No. A46961 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Power Test, Inc., in the amount of \$68,540 for the upgrade of the current transmission dynamometer control panel.

***Attachment***

None.

**Prepared by:**

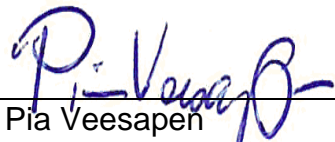


Dayle Withers  
Department Manager,  
Maintenance Administration  
714-560-5538

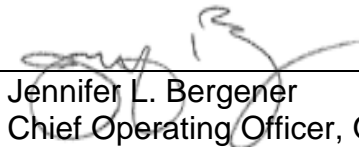
**Approved by:**



Cliff Thorne  
Director, Maintenance and Motorist  
Services  
714-560-5975



Pia Veasapen  
Director, Contracts Administration and  
Materials Management  
714-560-5619



Jennifer L. Bergener  
Chief Operating Officer, Operations/  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
714-560-5462