



November 14, 2024

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DEJ", with the word "For" written in smaller letters above the signature.

Subject: Award the Purchase of Battery-Electric Bus Chargers

Overview

On March 25, 2024, the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors approved the release of an invitation for bids to procure battery chargers for 40-foot battery-electric buses. Bids from qualified firms were received and Board of Directors' approval is requested to award an agreement for the purchase of battery-electric bus chargers to support new battery-electric buses.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Purchase Order No. C-3-3067 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and OneSource Distributors, LLC, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$2,194,794, for up to 11 battery chargers for 40-foot battery-electric buses.

Discussion

On March 25, 2024, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved the release of Invitation for Bids (IFB) 3-3067 to purchase up to 11 battery chargers to support the deployment and operation of ten battery-electric buses (BEB) that will be added to OCTA's Zero-Emission Bus Pilot Program. This will increase the number of BEBs that OCTA is piloting to 20, with ten assigned to both the Garden Grove and Santa Ana Bus Bases. The chargers will be installed at the Santa Ana Bus Base where the ten new BEBs will be assigned. Operationally, these chargers will provide the infrastructure needed to consistently deploy the BEBs. In addition to providing back-up to the chargers located at the Garden Grove Bus Base, installing chargers at two OCTA bus bases provides flexibility to deploy BEBs from either location on various routes expanding the operating environments in which these buses are being tested.

The chargers will consist of ten 150-kilowatt battery chargers and one 450-kilowatt pantograph style fast charger, which is designed to accommodate shorter charging times based on operational needs. The electrical energy will be transferred to the bus batteries by plug-in connectors from the 150-kilowatt battery chargers or by connection to charging bars on the roof of the bus by the 450-kilowatt pantograph style charger.

The chargers will be capable of supplying power evenly or sequentially to the charging stations based on recharging needs and time of use electricity rates. This allows each bus to be intelligently charged in a manner tailored to the power and logistical needs of each bus. In addition, training will be provided for the operation and maintenance of the chargers.

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 25, 2024, the Board authorized the release of IFB 3-3067 through OCTA’s CAMM NET system. The project was advertised in a newspaper of general circulation on March 26 and April 1, 2024. A pre-bid conference was held on April 2, 2024, and was attended by four firms. Three addenda were issued to post the presentation slides and registration sheets, as well as to respond to questions received, and handle administrative issues related to the IFB. On May 9, 2024, three bids were received and publicly opened.

All bids were reviewed by staff from both the Contracts Administration and Materials Management and Transit Technical Services 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>
OneSource Distributors, LLC Oceanside, California	\$2,194,794

Eneridge, Inc. Santa Fe Springs, California	\$2,506,061
SMB International, LLC doing business as Sustainable Energi San Diego, California	\$2,578,943

The OCTA project manager’s independent cost estimate (ICE) for this project was \$2,500,000. The recommended firm’s bid is approximately 12 percent lower than the OCTA project manager’s ICE and is therefore 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, LLC., the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$2,194,794, to provide up to 11 battery chargers for 40-foot battery-electric buses.

Fiscal Impact

Funding is included in OCTA’s Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, Account No. 2114-9022-D2116-ODC.

Summary

Based on the information provided, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Purchase Order No. C-3-3067 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and OneSource Distributors, LLC, in the amount of \$2,194,794, for up to 11 battery chargers for 40-foot battery-electric buses at Garden Grove and Santa Ana Bus Bases.

Attachment

None.

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