



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 10

Agenda Date: September 14, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Finance Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Troy Elliott

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

QIAGEN EZ2 Connect Instrument for SAMHD

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes a contract with QIAGEN LLC for the purchase of one EZ2 Connect Instrument for the San Antonio Metro Health Department (SAMHD) for a total cost of \$82,321.10. Funding for this contract is available from the COVID-19 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant administered by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Submitted for City Council consideration and action is an offer submitted by QIAGEN LLC for EZ2 Connect Instrument for the SAMHD's Laboratory Response Network (LRN).

The LRN is part of a national network of specially trained public health laboratories whose functions provide testing capabilities to respond to high consequence public health emergencies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), has provided specific funding to improve infrastructure and testing

capacity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Qiagen EZ2 Connect has been designated as the replacement for the EZ1 Advanced XL which is an FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) approved platform for the extraction of nucleic acids for the CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay and other LRN high consequence pathogen testing.

The QIAGEN EZ2 Connect automated nucleic acid extraction instrument provides scalable automated extraction for up to 24 samples, in parallel, using sealed prefilled cartridges. The EZ2 Connect platform can process a wide variety of sample matrices and enhances reproducibility and throughput by reducing manual pipetting steps and replacing them with the EZ2 Connect prefilled-reagent-cartridge system.

The City issued a Request for Offer (RFO) for QIAGEN EZ2 Connect (RFO 6100016779) on April 21, 2023, with a submission deadline of May 5, 2023. One offer was received. QIAGEN LLC is recommended for contract award based on the published specifications.

These items are being purchased as Sole Source according to the provisions of Texas Statutes Local Government Code 252.022.07. QIAGEN EZ2 Connect is solely manufactured and controlled by QIAGEN. No other source can supply the items listed nor can any comparable item fulfill the same requirements. Vendor acknowledges, with his/her signature, that all items offered are considered a Sole Source. CDC infectious disease protocols that SAMHD's laboratory is required to indicate which equipment has been validated for use. Among those listed for use in the laboratory, the Qiagen instrument is the only one that is both compatible with SAMHD's existing equipment and consumable supplies and designed to meet the testing volume needs. These validations are designed to meet the needs of different size laboratory operations from large commercial laboratories to small Public Health laboratories. SAMHD's LRN laboratory is a small public health laboratory. Other CDC protocol validated equipment is not compatible with SAMHD's existing systems, are too large to fit into the laboratory space, cost two to three times more than what the EZ2 systems cost, and far exceed what is necessary to meet testing requirements.

The Qiagen Corporation deoxynucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA) extraction methods have been previously validated, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to be used in conjunction with the Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) protocol.

The initial term of the agreement will be for the period upon award by City Council and will terminate upon delivery of all goods ordered.

ISSUE:

This contract will provide the SAMHD's LRN Laboratory with an EZ2 Connect Instrument as the designated replacement platform for the Qiagen EZ1 instrument, whose manufacturer has been discontinued. Currently, LRN utilizes one QIAGEN EZ1 Advanced XL instrument to perform the COVID-19 sample extractions; however, the laboratory would like to acquire additional automated nucleic acid extraction instrumentation to increase sample processing capability.

This contract is exempt from competitive bidding and is excluded from the scope of the SBEDA program.

This award is an exception to the Local Preference Program.

The Veteran-Owned Business Preference Program does not apply to goods and supplies contracts, so no preference was applied.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this contract not be approved, the LRN would be without a platform for the extraction of nucleic acids for the CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay and other LRN high consequence pathogen testing as the manufacturer of the QIAGEN EZ1 Advanced XL has been discontinued.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance will approve a contract with QIAGEN LLC to provide one (1) QIAGEN EZ2 Connect Instrument for the SAMHD for a total cost of \$82,321.10. Funding for this contract is available from the COVID-19 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant administered by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of an ordinance for acceptance of a contract with QIAGEN LLC to provide one (1) QIAGEN EZ2 Connect Instrument for the SAMHD's LRN for a total cost of \$82,321.10.

This contract was procured by means of sole source exemption and a Contract Disclosure Form is not required.