



District School Board of Pasco County

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Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent

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Department of Purchasing
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November 14, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable School Board Members

FROM: Kendra Goodman, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

RE: Request Permission to Negotiate
Simplex Fire Alarm Systems

On November 19, 2002, official action (attached) was granted to allow permission to directly negotiate the acquisition of parts, software and labor associated with The District's electronic fire alarm systems for Simplex products. Considering the fifth year of this contract will expire on December 31, 2007, the Maintenance and Facility Services Department, Construction Services and Code Compliance, and the Purchasing Department have been reviewing the existing contract, conditions, and past rationale to verify the applicability of future negotiations through the bid exemptions as presently allowed through the Department of Education rule 6A-1.012 (10) – Information technology.

Currently under the Department of Education rule 6A-1.012(10) allows the Board to enter into direct negotiations for high technology hardware, software and components when it is in their best interest to do so. The term information technology as defined in State Statutes 282.0041(7) means "equipment, hardware, software, firmware, programs, systems, networks, infrastructure, media, and related material used to automatically, electronically, and wirelessly collect, receive, access, transmit, display, store, record, retrieve, analyze, evaluate, process, classify, manipulate, manage, assimilate, control, communicate, exchange, convert, converge, interface, switch, or disseminate information of any kind or form."

Given the fact that the majority of fire alarm systems in the district are similar to computers in that they have front-end processors, data terminals, data storage units, miscellaneous peripheral equipment and data is automatically and electronically transmitted, displayed, stored analyzed, processed, communicated and disseminated to the appropriate fire authorities it appears that Simplex fire alarm systems fulfill the definition and intent of DOE's terminology for information technology and, therefore, would be exempt from the competitive bidding process.

Based upon past and present rationale, it is my recommendation that this acquisition be negotiated as allowed under the above-referenced rule as a multi-year contract, renewable annually by mutual agreement of both parties for a period not to exceed five years. Upon reaching a successful conclusion, I will forward copies of the contract and prices for your ratification.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, or if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

KDG/lmr

Attachments