

OHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Douglas Treadway

DATE: June 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Award of Contract for Computer Equipment and Support for the Datatel Computer Upgrade

Public Contract Code 20652 states: *Notwithstanding any other provisions of Sections 81640 to 81654, inclusive, of the Education Code, or of Sections 20651 to 20659, inclusive, of this code, the governing board of any community college district without advertising for bids, and when that board has determined it to be in the best interests of the district, may authorize by contract, lease, requisition, or purchase order, any public corporation or agency, including any county, city, town, or district, to lease data-processing equipment, purchase materials, supplies, equipment, automotive vehicles, tractors, and other personal property for the district in the manner in which the public corporation or agency is authorized by law to make the leases or purchases.*

Background: Ohlone College purchased and installed the Colleague student information system from Datatel, Inc. in early 1998. The Colleague system is a fully integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software suite that is specifically designed for the Higher Education Market. The District utilizes Colleague's Student System, Financial Aid, Human Resources, Payroll, and Accounting modules. The Colleague system also provides for Web-based access through WebAdvisor for Students and Staff to register for classes, view grades, view class rosters, and other information.

Datatel has released a new version of Colleague, Release 18. This new version represents an application architectural redesign. Via the redesigned architecture Datatel is introducing database independence into the Colleague configuration. Under this new version of the application Datatel will now support Microsoft SQL and Oracle database technologies in addition to its current Unidata database platform. Datatel's ability to support multiple database technologies represents a strategic breakthrough that will increase the flexibility and supportability of our ERP application.

In order to continue to receive application support from Datatel the College is required to upgrade to the new R 18 version. The College currently has 116 user licenses for the use of Colleague and Unidata on a Sun Fire V880 server from Sun Microsystems. The current system is only three years old, however it does not meet the vendor required hardware specifications for R18. Additionally Datatel has recently upgraded the WebAdvisor self-service component of the Colleague application. This upgrade places more processing demands on the Colleague server and thus required more system resources.

In response to the new system requirements for the upgraded Colleague and WebAdvisor applications the IT Department has conducted extensive analysis and validation of the vendor hardware requirements. This analysis explored the potential of re-configuring existing equipment to meet the equipment specifications. Additionally, the IT Department conducted in-depth review of competing technologies from HP, IBM, and the latest technology from Sun Microsystems.

Working with Datatel and independent technology consultants the College has developed an equipment specification for a new Main and Test Unix server and Storage Area Network Solution that will support Datatel's R 18 and WebAdvisor 3.0 hardware requirements.

Datatel ERP Equipment Upgrade

As a quasi-state entity and in line with Public Contract Code 20652 Ohlone College is entitled to purchase IT hardware under the State of California's Department of General Services California Strategic Sourcing Initiative (CSSI). Two bids were received in response to our equipment specifications priced under CSSI one from Sysix Technologies and another from GovStor, LLC. Both companies proposed a Sun Microsystems solution. The IT Department reviewed the proposals for compliance with the vendor's equipment specification and technical merit. The GovStor proposal was determined to be the best technical solution to support the Datatel Colleague systems. GovStor's proposal was also determined to be in the best interest of the District based upon the skill sets of the staff and other existing computer technologies in the District.

The GovStor, LLC solution will provide a Sun Fire V890, 4 CPU, Main UNIX and Test system. The systems are configured to support the Colleague system for a projected useful life span of about five (3) years.

The proposed solution also provides for a Storage Area Network (SAN) that will securely store all student and financial data. The SAN is fully redundant with one Terabyte (1 TB) of storage. All servers related to Colleague system (e.g., WebAdvisor) will be attached to the SAN and will share the storage array. A new high-speed tape backup system will also be included as part of the SAN solution.

The proposal with GovStor includes:

- Furnishing the equipment and software
- Installation of equipment racks/cabinets with earthquake bracing
- Installation, patching and configuration of the equipment and related software
- Initial testing of the equipment to verify expected performance
- Installation of required software
- Installation and testing of backup software
- Training for District staff on the operation, management, and maintenance of the Equipment
- Complete documentation of the provided equipment and configuration details
- Final testing and test results, as appropriate
- Support and maintenance agreements

RECOMMENDATION:

The President/Superintendent recommends that the Board of Trustees Award the Contract for Computer Equipment and Support for the Datatel Computer Upgrade to GovStor, LLC for \$140,959.45. This project is funded under Measure A Bond Project 3-28.

Attachments:

Chancellor Office Competitive Bid Letter

ATTACHMENT A

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

1102 Q STREET
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(916) 445-8752
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April 24, 2001

Larry Toy, Ph.D.
President/CEO
Foundation for California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: U.S. Communities

Dear Dr. Toy:

We have reviewed and concur with the legal opinion prepared by your counsel which concludes that a community college district may purchase from contracts competitively bid by a public agency pursuant to Public Contract Code section 20652. This would be the case if the public agency were affiliated with U. S. Communities so long as the contract is with the public agency itself. Moreover, this same principle can apply to other contracts developed by public agencies not involving U.S. Communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Sickert
Assistant General Counsel

PS:sj

cc: Ralph Black, General Counsel
Dave Stuart, Director of Operations