

NO: **R013**

COUNCIL DATE: **January 28, 2013**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 22, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance & Technology**

FILE: **1355-20**

SUBJECT: **Contract for the Replacement of Key Components of the City's Computer Network**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department recommends that Council approve the award of a contract to Bell Canada for the supply and implementation of new computer network hardware and software including related technical services, all as generally described in this report, in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000 plus applicable taxes.

BACKGROUND

The City has timed the replacement of its computer network hardware and software to strategically align with the construction of the New City Hall. The City's existing computer network equipment has reached the end of its useful life.

The City's main computer network data centre is located in City Hall. The key components of the data centre are two central devices, called 'core' switches, which are the primary controllers for the entire network across all civic facilities. There are also four distribution switches that serve the data centre servers located in City Hall. There are a series of smaller 'edge' switches that control data traffic at each of the civic facilities that is part of the network. The City's network relies on firewalls to provide secure access to the Internet and for protection against unauthorized access.

DISCUSSION

In November 2012 a Request for Proposal (RFP # 1220-030-2012-059) was issued for the replacement of the City's computer network that included strategic considerations in relation to the construction of the New City Hall. The terms of reference related to the RFP requested quotations from interested parties related to upgrading the City's network including its design, delivery and related services including, among others, firewall services that will allow the network to perform in a reliable, efficient, secure, and cost effective manner. The successful proponent will build on the City's current platform and provide a framework that will allow the City to take full advantage of current and emerging technologies.

The Network industry has made significant advancements since the last time the City upgraded its computer network. The replacement of the network will position the City to continue to deliver robust performance, reliability, security and scalability as new technologies, business applications and services are added to meet the on-going business and other needs of the City and its citizens and customers.

The RFP was advertised on each of the BC Bid website and the City of Surrey website. In response to the RFP, the City received a proposal from each of the following companies:

1. Bell Canada;
2. Compugen Inc.;
3. TELUS Communications Corporation; and
4. Xio Enterprises Inc. (dba Xio Networks).

An evaluation process was undertaken that rated each of the proposals against the following criteria:

- Experience of the proponent;
- Reputation of the proponent;
- Resources of the proponent;
- Technical specifications of the proponents products and related to the supply and installation of their products; and
- Overall cost.

An evaluation team, including Purchasing staff along with staff dedicated to IT Network services, Security, Architecture and Operations undertook a full evaluation of the proposals. Based on the listed criteria, the evaluation team has determined that the proposal from Bell Canada (Bell) offers the best value to the City. Bell has demonstrated most fulsomely their ability to provide the required services and equipment within the parameters outlined in the RFP at a reasonable cost and has further demonstrated that their products will provide flexibility for the City to adapt to emerging technologies in the coming years. The supply and implementation of the Bell Canada solution will cost no more than \$1,600,000 plus applicable taxes.

Funding

Funding for this contract is available from the IT Equipment Replacement Fund.

Implementation Schedule:

The new computer network will be rolled out over 2013 with the central data centre to be located in the new City Hall in City Centre.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations of this report will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly action item EC1: "Corporate Economic Sustainability" that focuses on ensuring the City's resources are used efficiently and responsibly.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve the award of a contract to Bell Canada for the supply and implementation of computer network hardware and software including related technical services, all as generally described in this report, in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000 plus applicable taxes.

Vivienne Wilke, CGA
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