ITEM NO.          SUBJECT:   SAN Upgrades

COMMITTEE:                  Finance Committee

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:    August 20, 2008

BOARD ACTION DATE:         September 17, 2008

PROPOSAL:      That the Board authorizes staff to negotiate a contract with ePlus Technology for an amount not to exceed $149,997.48 for the procurement and installation of new components for the Hewlett Packard Storage Area Network (SAN).

PURPOSE:       To provide the Authority with new components to support the Authority’s critical applications.

BACKGROUND:   In 2004, the DRPA entered into an agreement to purchase a Hewlett Packard (HP) storage area network for approximately $370,000. Prior to that purchase, all Authority data was being stored and managed using direct attached storage on each individual server. This method was very inefficient and ineffective both from a cost and management perspective. By purchasing the SAN we were able to consolidate our data thereby improving the management of our storage in addition to streamlining our backup and restore capabilities.

This new procurement will improve upon three areas of our storage array. The first will be to upgrade our switches. The new switches will provide for greater server capacity and faster data throughput speeds for our servers. The second area will improve our storage capacity. Additional hard drive enclosures and hard drive storage will be added. The ever increasing demand of stored data, including email and documents necessitates the need for additional storage. The third area will improve our backup and restore capabilities. We will be adding additional tape drives with the capability to encrypt the data stored on the tape as well as improve the efficiency of our backup process.

Bids were publicly advertised on June 27, 2008 and mailed to thirty-nine (39) bidders. Eight (8) bids were received as follows:

Total Contract Amount:   $149,997.48
Contractor: ePlus Technology.
4 Crossroads Center, Suite 108
Hamilton, NJ 08691

Other Bidders:
Attronica Computers
Gaithersburg, MD  $164,587.00

Vortechx Applied Tech.
Tinton Falls, NJ  $178,223.60

ASK technologies, Inc.
Bala Cynwyd, PA  $185,553.00

Computer Integration Group
Lancaster, PA  NO BID

Idea’s Unlimited
Wall, NJ  NO BID

RHO, Inc.
Hillsborough, NJ  NO BID

Lucille Maud Corp.
Trenton, NJ  NO BID

Staff therefore recommends, negotiating a contract with ePlus Technology for an amount not to exceed $149,997.48 for the procurement and installation of new components for the Hewlett Packard Storage Area Network (SAN).

SUMMARY: Amount:  $149,997.48
Source of Funds:  1999 Revenue Bonds/General Fund
Capital Project #:  T08005
Operating Budget:  N/A
Master Plan Status:  N/A
Other Fund Sources:  N/A
Duration of Contract:  N/A
Other Parties Involved:  N/A
RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes staff to negotiate a contract with ePlus Technology for an amount not to exceed $149,997.48 for the procurement and installation of new components for the Hewlett Packard Storage Area Network (SAN); and be it further

RESOLVED: The Chair, Vice Chair and the Chief Executive Officer must approve and are hereby authorized to approve and execute all necessary agreements, contracts, or other documents on behalf of the DRPA. If such agreements, contracts, or other documents have been approved by the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive Officer and if thereafter either the Chair or Vice Chair is absent or unavailable, the remaining Officer may execute the said document(s) on behalf of DRPA along with the Chief Executive Officer. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent or unavailable, and if it is necessary to execute the said document(s) while they are absent or unavailable, then the Chief Executive Officer shall execute such documents on behalf of DRPA.

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Information Services