ITEM NO.                  SUBJECT: PATCO Automatic Public Address and Passenger Information System Software Upgrade

COMMITTEE:                Operations and Maintenance

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:   February 18, 2009

BOARD ACTION DATE:        March 18, 2009

PROPOSAL: That the Board authorizes staff to negotiate contracts with Penta Corporation and Inova Solutions for the purchase of replacement automatic public address messaging software.

Amount: $78,844
Contractor: Penta Corporation
325 Edwards Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70123

Amount: $92,000
Contractor: Inova Solutions
110 Avon Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Other Bidders: None

PURPOSE: The contract is for replacement of the existing passenger information display software with the latest version of the software.

BACKGROUND: The computers that operate PATCO’s passenger information displays (commonly referred to as variable messages signs or VMS) and the associated computers and networking equipment have been in continuous operation since the year 2000. The computers at Ashland and Ferry Avenue stations have failed beyond repair and several others have been repaired using spare parts from discarded computers. Any of the remaining 12 computers, including the central server at Center Tower, could fail beyond repair at any time. Replacements and spare parts for these computers are no longer commercially available and the required software is no longer supported by the manufacturer. The station computers and central server that operate the VMS system should be replaced immediately to ensure its continued availability. The VMS system is used to announce trains for disabled passengers and to provide emergency, security and public service information for passengers and is an element of our approved ADA Compliance Plan.
Replacing the computers requires replacing the software that operates the displays and the automatic public address announcements. The version of the software that is in use at PATCO is no longer supported by the manufacturer, Inova Solutions. It was designed for use on computers and operating systems that are now obsolete.

This is a sole source purchase of proprietary software. The passenger information displays continue to perform well and PATCO is in possession of an adequate supply of spares to maintain them for several years. The displays were manufactured by Inova and will only function with Inova software. Replacing the 96 displays would conservatively add approximately $200,000 to the cost of the project. The project will also include replacement of the automated public address software which requires integration with the Inova system. Inova no longer offers public address capability with its software.

The DRPA Information Services Department will purchase and install the new computers and install the new software with assistance from Inova. At the same time, IS will connect the system to the DRPA computer network, abandoning the dedicated network originally installed for the VMS system. Penta Corporation will replace the automated public address software that provides programmed audio announcements. Penta Corporation developed the audio functionality that was included in the original LightLink software. Inova no longer offers that capability with its software and instead partners with Penta when that capability is required.

**SUMMARY:**

| Amount:                  | $78,844 – Penta Corporation  
|                         | $92,000 – Inova Solutions  
| Source of Funds:        | General Fund/Subject to Reimbursement by Future Bond Proceeds  
| Capital Project #:      | T08004  
| Operating Budget:       | N/A  
| Master Plan Status:     | N/A  
| Other Fund Sources:     | N/A  
| Duration of Contract:   | N/A  
| Other Parties Involved: | N/A  

**Source:** PATCO Automatic Public Address and Passenger Information System Software Upgrade
RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes staff to negotiate a contract with Penta Corporation of New Orleans, Louisiana to purchase the latest version of WavWriter software and associated technical support and training in an amount not to exceed $78,844; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes staff to negotiate a contract with Inova Solutions of Charlottesville, Virginia, to purchase the latest version of Inova LightLink software and associated technical support and training in an amount not to exceed $92,000; 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.

SUMMARY: Amount: $78,844 – Penta Corporation
$92,000 – Inova Solutions
Source of Funds: General Fund/Subject to Reimbursement by Future Bond Proceeds
Capital Project #: T08004
Operating Budget: N/A
Master Plan Status: N/A
Other Fund Sources: N/A
Duration of Contract: N/A
Other Parties Involved: N/A