

**PROCUREMENT OFFICER'S DETERMINATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING
CONTRACT NO. 218033-H
FIREWALL SOLUTION ENHANCEMENT - NETWORK PERIMETER**

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Determination has been executed pursuant to COMAR 21.05.09, Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing, to procure three Palo Alto Firewall Appliances under an Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement of the Department of Information Technology (DOIT), 2012 Hardware Master Contract No. 060B2490022, from Presidio Networked Solutions for a price of \$81,193.86.

II. PROPOSALS RECEIVED

<u>Offeror</u>	<u>Price</u>
Alliance Technology Group ("Alliance")	\$ 76,470.00 (rejected for lateness)
Presidio Networked Solutions ("Presidio")	\$ 81,193.86
Daly Computers Inc ("Daly")	\$132,900.00

III. BACKGROUND

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) conducted this procurement at the request of the MDOT MPA Information Services Department (ISD), which provided the following justification for the procurement:

Quality of Service and Security: To provide a more consistent and secure internal MDOT/MPA user experience. To standardize support team provisioning. To add a more robust, redundant firewall solution.

Objective: Replace firewall hardware protecting ingress/egress network and internet traffic at MPA terminals. Add replication firewall solution at DMT.

Brief: Protecting MPA critical network infrastructure within its perimeter is paramount. Maintaining standard hardware firewall builds and configurations arms MDOT's dedicated information security division with an efficient solution, consistent with MDOT's proofs of concept and expertise. Until recently, MPA's terminal operations network perimeter has supported the same firewall solution (ASA) standardized by MDOT. However, MDOT's current firewall solution is being migrated to new vendor hardware (Palo Alto). Maintaining the current MPA ASA firewall solution, and provisioning many of the feature sets that Palo Alto otherwise can leverage, has become a very difficult challenge for the MDOT security team as a dual firewall build solution. Some of the critical services provided inherently by Palo Alto instead require a legacy solution to configure on the current ASA firewall system, leading to greater complexity and risk. Additionally, one single firewall device solution

at the DMT facility remains a single point of failure for the current firewall at that location.

Project: MPA intends to replace and expand the DMT/SMT terminal firewall ASA hardware with a currently supported and replicated MDOT Palo Alto solution, which will enhance security and reduce maintenance overhead. The new Palo Alto is proposed to be implemented with proven MDOT security configurations.

Benefit: The replacement system will provide a new, more efficient firewall solution; consistent with MDOT security requirements and enterprise features. The system will be supported under MDOT's security department's jurisdiction, having met hardware and software requirements for maintenance and technical support. The additional hardware will provide full redundancy.

I solicited all 16 master contractors under DOIT's 2012 Hardware Master Contract and received the three proposals noted above. The proposal of Alliance had to be rejected for late submission. Daly's price included substantial expensive support not requested or required by MDOT MPA. ISD reviewed the proposal of Presidio, advised that the price is fair and reasonable, and recommended that the contract be awarded to Presidio. I concur with the recommendation of ISD.

IV. DETERMINATION

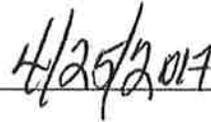
- A. DOIT Hardware 2012 Master Contract meets the requirements of an intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement under COMAR 21.05.09.01B(2)(a).
- B. Presidio's price represents a savings of \$5,926.14 over the manufacturer's suggested retail price of the equipment. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the MPA to utilize the DOIT contract because doing so will provide cost benefits to the State, will promote administrative efficiencies, and is not intended to evade the purposes set forth under COMAR 21.01.01.03.
- C. The award amount is within the funding available.
- D. Making an award under DOIT Hardware 2012 Master Contract No. 060B2490022 will save MPA the considerable time it will take to prepare a solicitation for public advertisement, obtain necessary approvals prior to publication, publish the solicitation, receive and analyze bids, and then complete an award. It will also provide MPA with contract pricing, procedures, and services identical to those provided by DOIT to other State agencies.
- E. A contract should be awarded to Presidio Networked Solutions in the amount of \$ 81,193.86 for the Palo Alto Firewall appliances.
- F. Since this procurement constitutes a procurement of information technology supplies for which MPA has an unlimited delegation of procurement authority from the Board of Public Works, approval of the award by the Maryland Port Commission and the Board of Public Works are not required.

V. APPROVAL REQUIRED

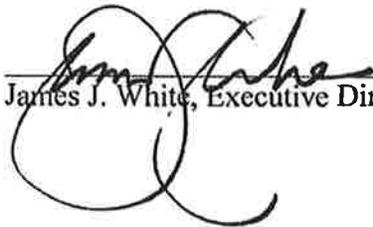
COMAR 21.05.09.05 provides: "Before awarding or participating in an intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement, the procurement officer shall obtain the approval of the primary procurement unit head, and any other approvals as required under this title."

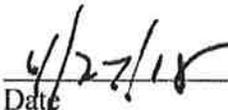
I request your approval, as unit head, to procure as described in this determination, subject to completion of all other requirements of procurement law, fund certification, execution and approval of the contract (including approval by the Office of the Attorney General for form and legal sufficiency), etc.


Adrain Pulliam-Smith
Procurement Officer


Date

APPROVED:


James J. White, Executive Director


Date