

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

254



FROM: Stanley L. Sniff Jr., Sheriff-Coroner-PA

SUBMITTAL DATE:

11/06/08

SUBJECT: Approval of Remotec, Inc., as the Sole Provider of a Radio Control Assembly for Sheriff's Department Hazardous Device Team's Remotec Andros F6A Robot.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase a radio control assembly from Remotec, Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$61,000, without securing competitive bids, in accordance with Ordinance 459.4.

BACKGROUND: The Sheriff's Department's Hazardous Device Team (HDT) has three robots; two wirelessly controlled Allied Vanguard MkII small robots with line-of-sight range of 350 feet, and the main robot, a Remotec Andros F6A. The Andros F6A is the primary robot utilized in law enforcement and military explosive ordnance disposal communities today. Most Andros F6A robots are controlled wirelessly; however, the Sheriff's Department's robot is controlled via a 1,000 foot fiber-optic cable tether. The presence of this tether greatly limits robotic capabilities; for example, it is impossible to enter a multi-story building with a tethered robot and access upper floors via an elevator. It is also impossible to address a potential Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) from a relatively safe distance with a 1,000 foot tether.

BR 09-051 (Continued on Page 2)

P. Labahn, Asst. Sheriff

(For) Pete Labahn

Stan L. Sniff Jr., Sheriff-Coroner-PA

FINANCIAL DATA

Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$61,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$61,000	Budget Adjustment:	No
Annual Net County Cost:	\$0	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2008-09

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Department Budget

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: *[Signature]*
Steve P. Schubert

County Executive Office Signature

Policy Policy

Consent Consent

Dep't Recomm.: Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: All

Agenda Number:

3.56

Departmental Concurrence

Purchasing: Mark Seiler, Assistant Director

Sheriff's HDT personnel conducted a search for remote radio control systems that are compatible with Remotec's Andros F6A robot and found only two systems: The Remotec "Talisman Gold," and Lithos Robotics "Monolith Digital Controller." HDT conducted side-by-side tests of both systems in an environment similar to that in which it often operates, a residential area with usual obstructions such as buildings, vehicles, vegetation, etc. Sheriff's HDT personnel found the performance of Remotec's Talisman Gold far exceeded that of the Lithos Robotics Monolith Digital Controller. The Lithos system consistently lost control of the robot around 500 feet from the command post, and lost all telemetry (audio, video and data) behind structures. The vendor was consulted and could not offer a solution. The Remotec system maintained control of the robot for over half a mile in an area full of typical obstructions. Line-of-sight control of the robot can be maintained for 5,000 feet.

The Remotec system meets the requirements for accreditation of the Sheriff's HDT unit as set forth by the FBI Bomb Data Center. It is capable of operating in a bomb mitigation role as well as in support of Sheriff's Emergency Services Team operations deep inside of buildings and various configurations. This is critical to safety of Sheriff's personnel.

Price Reasonableness

Remotec has quoted this device for \$60,937.16. Lithos has quoted their system at \$30,486.52. The price difference is significant; however, the Remotec system far exceeds the capabilities of the Lithos system has a useful life of 5-7 years. Viewed over its expected life, the difference in cost is \$4,013 per year. Remotec provided sales records for the same system to other law enforcement agencies and the U.S. military. The GSA pricing quoted the Sheriff's Department is consistent with the pricing charged to other agencies throughout the United States.

Date: October 15, 2008

From: Cpl. Frank Anderson Department/Agency: Riverside County Sheriff

To: Board of Supervisors

Via: Purchasing Agent

Subject: Sole Source Procurement; Request for

The below information is provided in support of my Department requesting approval for a sole source. Outside of a duly declared emergency, the time to develop a statement of work or specifications is not in itself justification for sole source.

Supply/Service being requested: **Radio control system for Sheriff's Hazardous Device Team's Andros F6A Robot**

Supplier being requested: **Remotec, Inc., a division of Northrup Grumman; Vendor # 10096**

Alternative suppliers that can or might be able to provide supply/service: **Lithos Robotics Corporation**

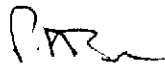
Extent of market search conducted: **International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, as well as suppliers to the U. S. Military**

Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier, which no alternative supplier can provide: **In a test environment, the Remotec system maintained control of the robot for over half a mile in an area full of typical obstructions (buildings, vegetation, steel structures, etc.). Line-of-sight control of the robot can be maintained for 5,000 feet. The Lithos system lost control of robot around 500 feet and behind structures.**

Reasons why my department requires these unique features and what benefit will accrue to the county: **HDT will acquire the capability of successfully remotely defeating a Vehicle Borne Improvised Destructive Device (VBIED); HDT will improve its ability to operate remotely within denied areas. The robot will also be able to support the Sheriff's Emergency Services Team operations deep inside of buildings and various configurations.**

Price Reasonableness: **Remotec offers GSA pricing and the price quoted is consistent with documentation provided by Remotec of sales to other law enforcement agencies.**

Does moving forward on this product or service further obligate the county to future similar contractual arrangements? **No**

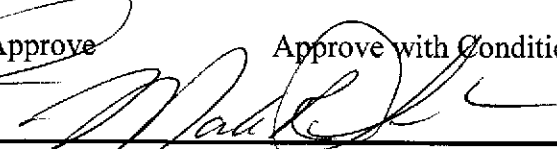
 110608
Department Head Signature Date

Purchasing Department Comments:

Approve

Approve with Condition/s

Disapprove


Purchasing Agent

11/06/08
Date