

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

249



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

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
06/08/10

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Touch Sonic Technologies, Inc. as a Sole Source Provider for Inmate Law Library Systems for Sheriff's Correctional Facilities.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Move that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to purchase Inmate Law Library Systems from Touch Sonic Technologies, Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$96,570, without securing competitive bids, in accordance with Ordinance 459.4.
2. Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to renew the contract in one year increments through June 30, 2013.

**BACKGROUND:** In December 2003, LexisNexis was awarded a contract for Inmate Law Library Systems as a result of RFP SHARC-00007, 9/29/03. At that time, LexisNexis had an exclusive subcontract agreement with Touch Sonic Technologies (TST) utilizing their software on hardware equipment proprietary to TST. LexisNexis's proprietary privileges ended December 31, 2006. TST then offered its equipment and subcontracted the software, resulting in a significant reduction in costs. With Purchasing concurrence, the Sheriff contracted with TST for a term which ended on December 31, 2009.

BR 10-101 (Continued on Page 2)

*Will Taylor*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley L. Sniff Jr., Sheriff-Coroner-PA  
Will Taylor, Director of Administration

**FINANCIAL DATA**

Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$98,451	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$0	Budget Adjustment:	No
Annual Net County Cost:	\$0	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2010-11

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Inmate Welfare Fund

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

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE  
*Robert Tremaine*  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Tremaine

**County Executive Office Signature**

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Dept's Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: All | Agenda Number:

3.35

Purchasing: *Mark Seiler*  
Mark Seiler, Assistant Director  
Departmental Concurrence

There are now four touch screen vendors that contract with LexisNexis: Meridian Kiosks, Aberdeen, NC; Kiosk Information Systems, Louisville, CO; SeePoint Interactive Kiosk Systems, Redondo Beach, CA; Touch Sonic Technologies, 2630 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa CA. All four vendors were sent a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this service in December 2009; however, only TST submitted a proposal in response to the RFP.

Purchasing staff contacted the three vendors which declined to respond to the RFP. Two of the companies stated that they could not meet the requirements of the service specified in the RFP. SeePoint Interactive stated that it could not meet the requirements of the Correctional environment.

Correctional facilities are mandated by law to provide inmates with law library services, including access to legal reference materials. Inmate access to legal information has changed throughout the years from hardbound books to a more secure and efficient delivery instrument.

The TST system is a tamper resistant, streamlined, wall-mounted or portable, and shatterproof touch screen unit. This system is completely secure with no Internet access and its hardware has been designed exclusively for jail environments. User interface has been custom designed to work with law library subscriptions services such as LexisNexis.

Sheriff's Correctional facilities will be increasing the total number of units by three from seven to ten.

Funding for the law library system will be provided by the Inmate Welfare Fund.

**Price Reasonableness:**

As more companies have entered the industry the pricing has become more come competitive, driving costs down for the consumer. The TST pricing submitted in response to the RFP is approximately \$6,938 less than its current year charge, and includes additional units.

**Annual Cost During Contract Term:**

FY 10-11: \$91,513

FY 11-12: \$93,373

FY 12-13: \$96,570

Date: April 21, 2010

From: Rosa Lazenby Department/Agency: Sheriff's Dept.

To: Purchasing Agent Rick Hai

Subject: Sole Source Procurement; Request for LexisNexis Touch Sonic Technologies

The below information is provided in support of 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:**

Provide a law library system at all five of the Riverside County Sheriff Department Correctional Facilities for use by pro-per inmates to access legal information. Each system features touch screen access for users, and all are self-contained. The system shall also include all maintenance and service for the hard and software.

**Supplier being requested:**

Touch Sonic Technologies, Inc. (TST)

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

A Request for Proposal for like equipment and services was released to the public and closed on January 5, 2010 (RFP # SHARC-130). County Purchasing only received one bid (italicized) from the following list of vendors sent the RFP.

Meridian Kiosks, 312 S. Pine St., Aberdeen, NC 28315, 910-944-1751  
Tony Temple, tt@mkiosks.com

Kiosk Information Systems, 346 South Arthur Ave., Louisville, CO 80027, 800-509-5471  
Ben Schafer, bens@kiosk.com

SeePoint Interactive Kiosk Systems, 2619 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Redondo Beach, CA 90278; 888-587-1777, Jeff Goldstein, jeff@seepoint.com

*Brad Plaschke, Director, Touch Sonic Technologies, 2630 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403; 707-526-6655, 415-377-2610 Cell, sales@touchsonic.com*

**Extent of market search conducted:**

We are aware of the four vendors listed above which offer similar systems to that of TST.

**Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier, which no alternative supplier can provide:**

As stated above, a request for services similar to that provided by LexisNexis TST was sent to four bidders and only TST chose to bid. The current system has been utilized very satisfactorily in the Riverside County Correctional Facilities since December 2003. LexisNexis TST has maintained the kiosks and law library service in compliance with its contractual obligations.

**Reasons why my department requires these unique features and what benefit will accrue to the county:**

Title 15 Regulations: Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities, Section 1064 as authorized pursuant to Penal Code, Section 6030, requires that adult detention facilities provide law library service, including access to legal reference materials. Access to legal information has changed as more secure delivery mechanisms and resources have become available (e.g. from Law books to CD Rom to Touch Screen Technology). The existing TST kiosk system is tamper resistant, streamlined, and shatterproof. This system is completely secure, self-contained with no Internet access, and its hardware has been designed exclusively for prison/jail environments. The user interface has been custom-designed to work with the LexisNexis law library data for inmate populations.

The County benefits by maintaining the existing system because services to inmates are ongoing and uninterrupted, which decreases the possibility of grievances or lawsuits filed by inmates.

**Price Reasonableness:**

As more companies have entered the industry the pricing has become more competitive, driving costs down for the consumer. The TST pricing submitted in response to the RFP is approximately \$6,938 less than its current year charge, and includes additional units.


**Does moving forward on this product or service further obligate the county to future similar contractual arrangements?**

No, the contract allows an option to renew for consecutive years up to a total contract term of three years. Technology is ever changing—should another vendor or product become available the County could release another RFP to modify, upgrade or change the existing law library delivery mechanism to meet the Sheriff's Department Corrections Division's needs.

  
Department Head Signature

6-10-10  
Date

Purchasing Department Comments:

Approve   
Purchasing Agent

Approve with Condition/s

Disapprove

6-10-10  
Date