

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

604



**FROM:** Community Health Agency - Department of Environment Health

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
July 26, 2011

**SUBJECT: APPROVE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF THE AHURA FIRST DEFENDER FROM THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Sole Source purchase of the Ahura First Defender from Thermo Fisher Scientific for total amount including tax and deliver not to exceed \$55,000, and;
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, in accordance with Ordinance No. 459.4, to exercise the renewal option for maintenance services for the life cycle of the system and make future Sole Source purchase, based on the availability of fiscal funding.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ahura First Defender is a lightweight, rugged instrument used for rapid identification of unknown solids and liquids, including narcotics, Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs), Toxic Industrial Materials (TIMs), explosives, chemical warfare agents (CWAs), unknown white powders, narcotics and more.

(Continued on Page 2)

*Steve Van Stockum*

Steve Van Stockum, Director  
Department of Environmental Health

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 55,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	11/12

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS: 100% Reimbursement from CHOG (County Hazardous Operations Group) Grant</b>	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

BY: *Debra Courmoyer*  
Debra Courmoyer

**County Executive Office Signature**

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

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

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

ATTACHMENTS FILED  
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

3.12

Purchasing: *Mark Sailer*, Assistant Director  
Departmental Concurrence

**Form 11**

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DEFENDER FROM THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC**

**PAGE 2**

**BACKGROUND (CONT.):** The Ahura First Defender uses optical RM Raman spectroscopy technology which will identify thousands of solids and liquids on-site. Due to the handheld unit being lightweight, it can be taken into hot zones using Level A personal protective equipment. The unit is rugged enough to be decontaminated in the field and requires no further calibration or additional consumables. The point-and-shoot operation means that it can identify unknowns through sealed containers (including glass, plastic and envelopes); which reduces the exposure to potentially hazardous materials for responders and the environment. The unit has a built-in vial mode which can be utilized for sample readings of unknowns. The spectral library can quickly identify over 6500 chemicals and mixtures of chemicals. Currently, Environmental Health does not have equipment that meets all of these needs. With this unit, our staff will be better prepared when dealing with unknown solids and liquids.

**PRICE REASONABLENESS:** On May 16, 2011, Riverside County Purchasing released RFQ# HSARC-175, with bid notifications being sent to multiple bidders, and posted on publicpurchase.com. The bid closed on May 31, 2011 and the County received back one bid at \$50,000; plus the state use tax in the amount of \$3,875. After receiving no other bids, we contacted vendors in the industry but they had no similar product they wished to bid on.

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, with optional four additional years of Sole Source purchases based on the availability of department's operating budget.

**Date:** June 29, 2011  
**From:** Steve Van Stockum, Director **Department:** Environmental Health  
**To:** Board of Supervisors  
**Via:** Purchasing Agent  
**Subject:** Sole Source Procurement – **Purchase of one (1) Ahura First Defender RM Spectroscopy**

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: **Purchase one (1) Ahura First Defender RM Raman Spectroscopy**

Supplier being requested: **Thermo Fisher Scientific**

Alternative suppliers that can or might be able to provide supply/service: **None. Ahura is owned by Thermo Scientific and partners with Fisher Scientific which owns the patent on this equipment.**

Extent of market search conducted: **Bidding process (RFQ#HSARC-175) on publicpurchase.com, Internet, and by contacting potential vendors.**

Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier, which no alternative supplier can provide: **Ahura First Defender is a lightweight, rugged instrument for rapid identification of unknown solids and liquids, including narcotics, Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs), Toxic Industrial Materials (TIMs), explosives, chemical warfare agents (CWAs), unknown white powders, narcotics and more. The Ahura First Defender uses optical RM Raman spectroscopy technology which will identify thousands of solids and liquids on-site. Due to the handheld unit being lightweight, it can be taken into hot zones using Level A personal protective equipment. The unit is rugged enough to be decontaminated in the field and requires no further calibration or additional consumables.**

Reasons why my department requires these unique features and what benefit will accrue to the county: **The point-and-shoot operation means that it can identify unknowns through sealed containers (including glass, plastic and envelopes); which reduces the exposure to potentially hazardous materials for responders and the environment.**

Price Reasonableness: **Based on RFQ# HSARC-175 sent to multiple bidders and posted on PublicPurchase.com, the bid received back was \$50,000; plus the state used tax of \$3,875. After receiving no other bids, we contacted vendors in the industry but they had no similar product they wished to bid on. SAME PRICE OFFERED ALL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

Period of Performance: **July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, with optional four additional years of Sole Source purchases based on the availability of department's operating budget.**

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

*Steve Van Staden*

7/12/11

**Department Head Signature**

**Date**

Purchasing Department Comments:

Approve

Approve with Condition/s

Disapprove

*[Signature]*

**Purchasing Agent**

**Date**