

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

532



**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
01/22/13

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

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Remotec, Inc. as the Sole Source Vendor to Overhaul and Upgrade the Sheriff's RONS Bomb Disablement Robot

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

1. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to procure Remotec, Inc. to overhaul and upgrade its RONS bomb disablement robot at a cost not to exceed \$76,000, without securing competitive bids, in accordance with Ordinance 459.4.
2. Approve and direct the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustments on the attached Schedule A.

**BACKGROUND:** Four months ago, the Riverside County Sheriff's Hazardous Device Team (HDT) acquired two twelve year-old RONS robot, manufactured by Remotec, for free from the military. The RONS robots are utilized to aid HDT and SWAT to inspect and handle bombs and suspicious packages from a remote distance without exposing our deputies to danger.  
(Continued on Page 2)

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

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$76,000	In Current Year Budget:	No
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$9,000	Budget Adjustment:	Yes
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$0	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2012-13

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS: Federal Homeland Security Grant Program (88%) and Department budget (12%) BR 13-057</b>	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

BY:   
Elizabeth J. Olson

**County Executive Office Signature**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Ashley, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: February 26, 2013  
xc: Sheriff, Purchasing, Auditor, E.O.

Kecia Harper-Ihem  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

FISCAL PROCEDURES APPROVED

PAUL LANGULO, CPA, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER  
BY:   
Lisette Rose  
Departmental Concurrence

Purchasing:   
Mark Seiler, Assistant Director

ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD  
 Policy  
 Policy  
 Consent  
 Consent  
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

Although HDT and SWAT can utilize the RONS robots as is, HDT wants to upgrade one. Remotec does not support some of the robots' software, nor does it have parts available to support some of the functions. A complete upgrade/overhaul will bring the robot up-to-date with the latest technology, further broadening the safety of our deputies. Once the upgrade is completed, we will have the ability to remotely operate air monitors, radiation monitors, multiple disrupters, expandable fire points, and cameras that enable vision in low light conditions.

Remotec is the proprietary vendor of this robot, and they do not have an authorized dealer to complete the upgrade/overhaul on the existing RONS robot design. All parts are sold from and all maintenance is performed at Remotec's facility located in Clinton, Tennessee. Although there are various vendors such as International Bomb Technicians and Investigators, and U.S. and Foreign Military Explosive Ordinance, these vendors only provide new bomb robots for sale.

Over the last few years, Sheriff's HDT has purchased small remotely operated vehicles, commonly known as a "bomb robots" to accomplish its missions. While the small robot can be agile, it lacks strength to push or drag heavy objects and it is very limited as to how high its camera can be raised. The RONS robot weighs 700 lbs, and is extremely strong. Its camera mast can be raised to nearly 10 feet. It also has wireless radio communications abilities that are far superior to the smaller robot.

For \$76,000, the price of a new small bomb robot, the Sheriff can overhaul a large robot with superior operating abilities, which would sell new for nearly \$300,000.

The Sheriff's Department is a Board-appointed member of the Anti-Terrorism Approval Authority (ATAA), and the Sheriff's HDT is a member of the County-wide HazMat Operations Group (CHOG). Federal pass-through funds awarded to the County under the State Homeland Security Grant Program and administered by the Community Health Agency, have been supporting CHOG drills and training for hazardous material emergencies. The ATTA has approved \$67,000 of this funding for Sheriff's HDT for the bomb robot overhaul.

**PRICE REASONABLENESS:** A new RONS robot would cost nearly \$300,000. Remotec, Inc. will overhaul and upgrade the robot with the latest technology for \$76,000. The price for the overhaul that Remotec is quoting the Sheriff's Department is the same as it is currently quoting all military and government agencies.

**Schedule A**

**Increase Appropriations:**

10000-2500300000-546160	Equipment - Other	\$67,000
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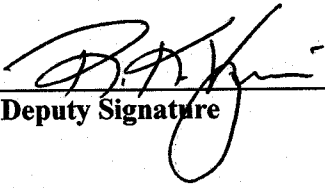
**Increase Estimated Revenue:**


10000-2500300000-767220	Federal – Other Operating Grants	\$67,000
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Date: January 16, 2013  
From: Will Taylor, Director of Finance Department/Agency: Sheriff - HDT  
To: Board of Supervisors/Purchasing Agent  
Via: Purchasing Agent  
Subject: Sole Source Procurement; Request for complete upgrade/overhaul of Remotec RONS robot.

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.

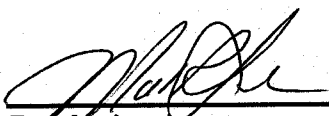
1. **Supply/Service being requested:** Complete upgrade/overhaul of the Remotec RONS bomb disablement robot.
2. **Supplier being requested:** Remotec, Inc. a Division of Northrup Grumman (Vendor No. 10096)
3. **Alternative suppliers that can or might be able to provide supply/service:** None available.
4. **Extent of market search conducted:** Remotec is the proprietary vendor of the robot, and they do not have an authorized dealer to complete the upgrade/overhaul on the existing RONS robot design. Although there are various vendors such as International Bomb Technicians and Investigators, and U.S. And Foreign Military Explosive Ordinance, these vendors only provide new bomb robots for sale.
5. **Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier, which no alternative supplier can provide:** The RONS robot is a patented product under the sole source proprietary manufacturer and distributor, Remotec. The robot system has a unique articulated track design, which is patented under U.S. Patent No. 4,746,977, Patent No. 4,923,831 and Patent No. 5,022,812. Remotec also designed, produced, and patented their Hybrid Radio System under Patent No. 7633852.
6. **Reasons why my department requires these unique features and what benefit will accrue to the county:** The RONS robot is utilized to aid our Hazardous Device Team and SWAT to inspect and handle bombs and suspicious packages from a remote distance without exposing our deputies to danger. The RONS robot is twelve years old. The vendor does not support some of the software, or have parts available to support some of the functions. A complete upgrade/overhaul will bring the robot up-to-date with the latest technology, further broadening the safety of our deputies. Once the upgrade is completed, we will have the ability to remotely operate air monitors, radiation monitors, multiple disrupters, expandable fire points, and cameras that enable our vision in low light conditions.
7. **Price Reasonableness including purchase price and any ongoing maintenance or ancillary costs from the supplier:** The RONS robot was acquired from the military for free. The cost of a new RONS robot is in the range of \$300K. It is less expensive to upgrade/overhaul the existing robot with the latest technology for \$76K, which results in a greater cost savings to the County.
8. **Does moving forward on this product or service further obligate the county to future similar contractual arrangements or any ongoing costs affiliated with this sole source? (Maintenance, support, or upgrades, if so, please explain).** No.
9. **Period of Performance:** This is a one-time request not to exceed \$76K.

 2-7-13  
Chief Deputy Signature Date

 2-7-13  
Department Head Signature Date

Purchasing Department Comments:

Approve                      Approve with Condition/s                      Disapprove  
Not to exceed: \$ 76,000                       One time                       Annual Amount through \_\_\_\_\_

                      2/6/13                      13-310  
Purchasing Agent                      Date                      Approval Number  
(Reference on Purchasing Documents)