



CYBER SECURITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Riverside Public Utilities

City Council
March 11, 2025

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BACKGROUND

1. To safeguard our critical assets and mitigate the escalating risks of cyber threats, it was crucial that Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) develop a Cyber Security Professional Consulting Services Request for Proposal (RFP) to continue to enhance our security posture.
2. A cybersecurity consultant can provide expert guidance in navigating NERC CIP regulatory requirements, ensuring that the utility's cybersecurity practices not only comply with current standards but also proactively address emerging threats.



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BACKGROUND

3. A qualified vendor is needed to perform a review of RPU Operational Technology (OT) network architecture, security controls, facilities and systems relating to Critical Infrastructure Protection.
4. Additionally, the cyber security scope of services requires an approach that is both modular and capable of maintenance by City of Riverside Public Utilities personnel.



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REGULATORY HISTORY

1. NERC CIP-008-6
 - To mitigate the risk to the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System (BES) as the result of a Cyber Security Incident by specifying incident response requirements.
2. NERC CIP-013-2
 - To mitigate cyber security risks to the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System (BES) by implementing security controls for supply chain risk management of BES Cyber Systems.



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DISCUSSION

1. May 8, 2024 – City staff issued RFP 2340 for Cyber Security Professional Consulting Services.
2. June 12, 2024 – Eight vendors submitted proposals and were ranked by a panel consisting of four RPU employees.
3. The evaluation panel evaluated the proposals on the following selection criteria:
 - a. Qualifications (35%)
 - b. Pricing (20%)
 - c. Experience (Projects of similar size and scope) (25%)
 - d. Approach and Methodology (10%)
 - e. Professional References (10%)



DISCUSSION

4. Vendor Scoring Table

Criteria	AESI-US, Inc	Archer Energy Solutions LLC	BayInfoTech LLC	Elegant Enterprise-Wide Inc.	Global Information Intelligence LLC	Global Solutions Group Inc.	Net Force	TAC Security Inc.
Approach & Methodology (10%)	90%	70%	60%	60%	45%	60%	73%	40%
Experience (25%)	90%	93%	50%	53%	45%	48%	68%	40%
Professional References (10%)	80%	83%	40%	43%	65%	55%	53%	30%
Qualifications (35%)	88%	93%	53%	53%	55%	45%	70%	35%
Technical Score (weighted)	88%	89%	51%	52%	52%	49%	67%	37%
Cost Proposal (20%)	26%	13%	100%	3%	16%	46%	12%	20%
Overall Score	75%	73%	61%	42%	45%	48%	54%	33%



DISCUSSION

5. AESI's scope of services includes:

- Cyber Program Assessment
- Cyber Posture Assessment
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Penetration Testing
- Remediation Services
- Incident Response
- In-Person Training
- One-on-One Mentoring
- Budget Scope
- Exercise Services



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INITIAL SERVICES

1. The initial scope of services for this project will include a comprehensive Cyber Program Assessment followed by a Cyber Posture Assessment.
2. Recommendations from AESI's Cyber Assessments will be included and incorporated into RPU's Cyber Program Framework.
3. The continued development of a comprehensive risk mitigation plan will address any identified vulnerabilities and outline specific mitigation solutions.



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FISCAL IMPACT

1. Contracted Amount and Contingency Option Over a 3-Year Period
 - Total Contracted Amount will be \$179,100
 - Additional Contingency Option will be \$150,000
 - Total Possible Compensation of \$329,100

2. Contingency Option is a precautionary measure only used to address adverse events, should they arise.

AESI-US, Inc.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Contracted Amount	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$59,100	\$179,100
Contingency Option	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$150,000
				\$329,100



FISCAL IMPACT

3. Fiscal impact is \$329,100 over a 3-year period.

4. Funds are included in the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 – 2027/2028 budgets in the Electric Fund, Legislative & Regulatory Risk Account No. 6025000-421000, Electric Operations Account No. 6100000-421000, Clearwater Generating Plant Account No. 6120140-421000, and Water Fund, Water Production & Operations Account No. 6200000-421000, approved by the City Council in June 2024. Project cost share is 25% for each account.

5. Funds for future fiscal years will be included as part of the subsequent budget process.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Priority 6 – Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity

Goal 6.2: Maintain, protect and improve assets and infrastructure within the City's built environment and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Equity



Fiscal Responsibility



Innovation



Sustainability & Resiliency



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve the Professional Consultant Services Agreement with AESI, Inc., from RFP 2340, for cyber security consulting services, for a three-year term, in an amount of \$329,100; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the agreements, including making minor non-substantive changes, and to sign all documents and instruments necessary to complete the transactions.



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