

April 20, 2017

17-094

GRANT AUTHORITY TO SOLE SOURCE AND  
PURCHASE MECHATRONICS EQUIPMENT FROM  
LAB CORP

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REPORT: A new Mechatronics program is being implemented at the Willow Creek Center. The program is being designed to address the advanced manufacturing industry's need for a talent pipeline of skilled workers, and meet our community's need to have better pathways into middle skill jobs. This program can help address some of the inequities seen in the industry for underrepresented populations and non-native English speakers, by providing a pathway to skill up and advance into living wage jobs that responds to the industry's evolving use of technology.

The College has a need to purchase equipment for the new program. Through ongoing and extensive face-face and virtual meetings, site visits and research, an investigation of industry and community colleges throughout the region was completed. Considering the variation of industry throughout state, it is clear that our program needs to meet local stakeholders requirements.

Through this extensive research it became clear that SMC equipment is the best choice for our program and we would like to move forward with purchasing the equipment through Lab Corp. Our recommendation to partner with SMC for Mechatronics training equipment purchased through Lab Corp is consistent with the methodology of partnership with industry leaders and stakeholders who will eventually hire our program graduates. This decision enables program leadership and collaboration among our partners that included local industry, regional community colleges, OTC/Oregon

Employment Department and related PCC programs. This decision specifically and best meets the needs of the local industry, students and PCC. This recommendation has been vetted with industry and academic leaders and realizes the Oregon Talent Council's mission of closing the gap between industry and higher education.

The SMC equipment is only sold through one vendor, Lab Corp, therefore we are requesting a sole source to purchase the equipment.

A sole source with Lab Corp will offer PCC

- Backing from Boeing Portland and Puget Sound and advisory committee members
- Enable collaboration with curriculum development with Clark College and I5 corridor community colleges mentioned above.
- Enable collaboration with high schools
- Relevance to local industry surrounding Willow Creek
- Lab Corp has diverse product offering beyond SMC that will meet program's long-term needs

Funding for this first round of equipment is coming from an OTC grant that expires on June 30, 2017. To begin this new Mechatronics program, hire staff, develop curriculum, and choose the right equipment has been an extensive and time-consuming process that involved many stakeholders, as outlined above. Which means time is of essence and the equipment needs to be ordered this month or we would lose the grant funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Directors authorize the Department and Bond Program to sole source the equipment purchase through Lab Corp. The estimated cost of the purchase will be \$234,000. Funding will come from the OTC Grant.