

April 19th, 2018

18-109

AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY  
PROCUREMENT OF CORE NETWORK SWITCHES,  
FROM RIGHT SYSTEMS INC.

PREPARED BY: Layla Otey, Lead Buyer, Information Technology

FINANCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY: Linda Degman, Director, Bond Program

APPROVED BY: Michael Northover, CIO, Information Technology  
Sylvia Kelley, Executive Vice President  
Mark Mitsui, College President

REPORT: There have recently been network interruptions within the college due to failing network switch equipment that is end of life. To mitigate these interruptions and have continuity of service there is a need for an emergency procurement for new network switches.

Student learning and faculty instruction are severely impacted by intermittent network reliability and reduced quality of services. Network issues have included wired and wireless connections, poor voice call and video quality, and security and safety risks.

The current issue can be addressed by replacing end-of-life networking hardware with new enterprise networking equipment that provides redundancy.

As a part of the 2017 Bond Information Technology (IT) planning, we anticipated replacing significant existing network infrastructure. The plan includes multiple phases. This switch replacement is part of the Active Electronics Phase I, and will drive the new architecture for the rest of the network infrastructure project.

There will be no Professional Services required and the purchase will be for hardware only. The college Network Infrastructure Services team will install the

new switches.

Right! Systems Inc. is on a cooperative procurement contract, NASPO Data Communications contract (AR-229) which exempts the college from a competitive bid process per PCC-46-0400. The NASPO Data Communications contract expires May 31, 2019.

The impact of the failing network switches creates a substantial risk of interruption of services per PCC-46-0110(29)(b) and PCC-47-0280 pursuant to ORS 279B.080.

MWESB Note: The State of Oregon Minority, Women and Emerging Small business vendor database (COBID) did not include a vendor that could provide the required network cores.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Portland Community College Board of Directors approve the emergency purchase of network switches in the amount of \$269,450.00 plus a 10% contingency of \$26,945 for a total of \$296,395 from Right! Systems Inc. Funding will be from the 2017 Bond Program.