

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority
Board Action/Information Summary**

Action
 Information

MEAD Number:
99388

Resolution:
 Yes No

PURPOSE

To request Board approval to initiate and award a sole source requirements contract to Rail Bearing Service Corporation with a one year base and three one year options to recondition 1,800 axle journal bearings in the base period and 2,000 bearings during each option period, WMATA stock number V18-35-0012.

DESCRIPTION

This requirement provides for reconditioning of axle journal bearings for the Breda and Rohr rail cars to support scheduled maintenance and overhaul programs. Axle journal bearings are replaced on revenue rail cars before they exceed unsafe operating conditions and to rebuild rail car truck assemblies. It is an integral part of the rail car traction system. When installed, they support the weight of the rail car while allowing the axle and wheels to rotate freely as traction power is applied to the wheels. Rail Bearing Service Corporation is the only approved source to recondition these bearings.

Rail Bearing Service became the sole provider of this part through an open invitation for vendors to participate in a pre-qualifying evaluation that was conducted by the Chief Engineer-Vehicles (CENV), Car Maintenance (CMNT) and coordinated by Procurement and Materials (PRMT). Two vendors responded to the solicitation: Rail Bearing Service and Cooper Bearings. Each vendor was awarded a one time nonstock order to refurbish several bearings and submit them for evaluation. The bearings were installed on selected rail cars and were evaluated by CENV and CMNT for several months. At the conclusion of the evaluation period, each vendor's bearing was evaluated based on workmanship, reliability, price and pickup and delivery responses. The bearings refurbished by Rail Bearing Service were determined to have superior quality, reliability and price compared to Cooper's bearings. Based on the pre-qualification results, CENV and CMNT selected and approved Rail Bearing Services as the only source for this part with an additional requirement that the bearings be refurbished with a "Timken Seal." The Timken Seal proved to be more reliable and durable than the seal used by Cooper Bearings.

Establishing a long term contract to recondition these bearings will reduce procurement and maintenance cost, simplify ordering procedures and ensures that a continuous flow of axle journal bearings are available to support the Authority's revenue vehicle maintenance requirements. There is no existing contract for this item.

FUNDING IMPACT

Budget: Inventory - Operating Budget - Fiscal 2006 thru 2010

Office: Support Operations - Car Maintenance

Account: Materials and Supplies - Rail Car Maintenance

This Action: \$1,084,000

	Base Year	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Budget:	FY2006-2007	FY2007-2008	FY2008-2009	FY2009-2010
Operating:	\$232,000	\$270,000	\$284,000	\$298,000

The estimated cost of the base period is \$232,000 and if the option years are exercised, the total cost is \$1,084,000. Funds are available in the Inventory Stock Account. Since this item is expensed against Operations Support/Car Maintenance Materials and Supplies Account as it is drawn from inventory, there is no immediate impact on the operating budget. Further, in order to conserve cash, quantities ordered under this requirements contract will only be placed when inventory replenishment is reasonably necessary to maintain service requirements. The axle journal bearings requested in this Board Action/Information Summary are necessary for the maintenance of the Authority's property and are not a duplicate of other items required by the Authority. Funding for fiscal years 2007 thru 2010 is subject to Board approval of budget for those years and the availability of funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Board approval to initiate and award a sole source requirements contract to Rail Bearing Service Corporation to recondition axle journal bearings with a one year base period and three one year options, WMATA Stock Number, V18-35-0012, and approval to exercise the option years based on Board approval of future year's budgets and funds availability.