

Purchase Request #1
Regular Board Meeting December 4, 2023

Consideration of Delegation of Authority to Purchase Benchtop Bioreactors

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION/REPORT

The administration recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Chancellor or her designee to approve the purchase of various benchtop bioreactors.

BACKGROUND

The College has been preparing to provide both credit and non-credit training for the growing biomanufacturing industry. In August 2023, the Board authorized the operational budget for this new program. The program identified a need for a variety of benchtop bioreactors to support the curriculum. Benchtop bioreactors are flexible, modular, systems that support distinct types of cell cultures under a wide range of conditions for research and instructional purposes. In October 2023, the Board allocated funds from existing 2015 Bond Contingency funds to support the program, including the purchase of equipment.

Request for proposals #24-07 was issued on November 16, 2023, for the purchase of new and previously owned benchtop bioreactors, which complies with the competitive procurement requirements per Texas Education Code §44.031(a). Sequential purchases will be made to acquire the best value offerings to fulfill the instructional requirements of the program until the allocated funds are depleted.

IMPACT OF THIS ACTION

Approval of this action will authorize the Chancellor or her designee to approve the purchase of benchtop bioreactors that offer the best value. Ideally, these offerings will include used equipment costing an estimated 40 to 60 percent less than new systems, but these have a limited window of availability. Obtaining this authority in advance ensures that the College will be able to acquire suitable equipment within the restricted windows of availability.

BUDGET INFORMATION (INCLUDING ANY STAFFING IMPLICATIONS)

The cost of these acquisitions should not exceed \$383,000. The project is funded from the 2015 Bond Program.

MONITORING AND REPORTING TIMELINE

This project will be managed by Capital Projects and BioManufacturing Program staff.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

RESOURCE PERSONNEL

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RFP #24-07
Benchtop Bioreactors
Evaluation Tabulation

QUALIFICATIONS		
#	Vendors	Written Proposal
	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>50</i>
1	GMI	48.75
2	Eppendorf	45.00
3	Sartorius	26.25
4	Cytiva	23.75
5	Getinge*	0.00
6	Infors USA*	0.00

*Suppliers received a score of zero for not submitting a Written Proposal and were disqualified of pricing evaluation.

Equipment Attachment A-1**				
#	Vendors	Written Proposal	Price Score	Final Score
	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
1	GMI	48.75	48.75	97.50
2	Eppendorf	45.00	29.11	74.11
3	Cytiva	23.75	17.80	41.55
4	Sartorius	26.25	14.06	40.31

Equipment Attachment F**				
#	Vendors	Written Proposal	Price Score	Final Score
	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
1	Eppendorf	45.00	45.00	90.00
2	GMI	48.75	39.45	88.20

**Responses for Attachments A-2, B, C, D & E did not provide the best value and/or meet the needs of the College.