

Contact: Andrea Anania

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Actions Requested: Consider:

- ♦ Approval for SUI to purchase a Bruker Biospin Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) System for a total of \$1,523,000; and
- ♦ Ratification of the Executive Director's July 28, 2009, emergency approval for SUI to purchase five heavy duty, low floor, forty-foot, diesel-powered transit buses for a total of \$1,802,315.

Executive Summary: Equipment purchases at the Regents institutions costing more than \$1 million are required by Board policy to be approved by the Board of Regents. The Executive Director may approve emergency purchases exceeding \$1,000,000 to be followed by Board ratification.

BRUKER BIOSPIN NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE (NMR) SYSTEM

Description of the Equipment

The NMR system includes an Avance III 600-MHz Solution State NMR spectrometer and an 11.5 Telsa Magnet and Broad-Band-Fluorine Probe, which are both upgrades to existing Bruker instrumentation, and an Avance III 500-MHz Solid State NMR Spectrometer.

These instruments will integrate with existing equipment, including an Avance II 600 Spectrometer, an Avance III 400 Spectrometer, a DPX 300 digital programmable series spectrometer, and a BACS-60 Automatic Sample Changer.

The NMR System will be housed in the Central High-Field NMR facility in rooms W77, W84 and/or W275 of the Chemistry Building.

Justification of the Need for the Equipment

The University reports that the NMR System would significantly enhance the technical capabilities and the level of automation currently available in the Central High-Field NMR facility located in the Department of Chemistry, and allow University researchers to pursue broad as well as technically demanding high-field solution and solid state NMR applications.

All research departments across campus, including Physics, Biochemical Engineering, and Pharmacy will have access to the NMR facility and these instruments to examine chemical, physical, and biological materials in solid and liquid states.

Any Known Alternatives to the Equipment Proposed

The University reports that Bruker Biospin Incorporated was selected as the only provider of NMR equipment as it will seamlessly integrate with existing equipment and software. Additionally, the Bruker Avance III 500-MHz Solid State NMR spectrometer provides essential technologies not available from other vendors such as running a number of samples unattended and eliminating the need to remove and reinstall probes when changing samples.

The units will be procured based on a sole source justification.

Estimated Cost and Source of Funding

The cost to purchase the NMR system is \$1,523,000. Sources of funding include the: (1) National Science Foundation; (2) National Institutes of Health; and (3) General Education and General Organized Activities Funds.

FIVE HEAVY DUTY, LOW FLOOR, FORTY-FOOT, DIESEL-POWERED TRANSIT BUSES (TRANSIT BUSES)

Description of the Equipment

Five (5) heavy duty, low floor, forty-foot, diesel powered transit buses.

Justification of the Need for the Equipment

The University reports that this purchase allows for the replacement of five Cambus transit buses which have been in service since 1989 and are becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and operate. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recognized and established useful life for these buses is 12 years.

The University requested Executive Director approval to expend available American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds as quickly as possible. In addition, the University had to place the order by August 24, 2009, to preserve the purchase price of \$1,802,315, which included an estimated cost of \$125,000 (\$25,000 per bus) for the Environmental Protection Agency's 2010 emission equipment mandate.

Any Known Alternatives to the Equipment Proposed

The University reports that:

- ◆ A request for proposal (RFP) was solicited on behalf of the City of Iowa City Transit, Coralville Transit, Clinton Transit, and SUI for 30, 35, and 40-foot, heavy duty, low floor, diesel-powered transit buses;
- ◆ Responses were received from Gillig Corporation and EIDorado National;
- ◆ Gillig Corporation submitted the proposal which was determined by the evaluation committee to be the most responsive and best value; and
- ◆ The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Office of Public Transit reviewed and approved the RFP; the procurement process was deemed compliant with all FTA procurement regulations.

Estimated Cost and Source of Funding

The net equipment cost to the University is \$39,902. The cost for all five transit buses is \$1,802,315 (\$360,463 for each bus), with \$1,762,413 of the funding to be reimbursed to SUI from ARRA FTA grants awarded to the IDOT.

The source of funding is capital equipment funds.

Board Policy: Chapter 7.06B(12) of the Regent Policy Manual requires that:

- ◆ Equipment costing more than \$1,000,000 must be submitted to the Board for approval; and
- ◆ Requests submitted to the Board Office for approval must include the following information:
 - ◆ Description of the equipment;
 - ◆ Justification of the need for the equipment;
 - ◆ Any known alternatives to the equipment proposed; and
 - ◆ Estimated cost and source of funding.