

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Equipment Acquisition – University of Iowa
Date: October 6, 2003

Recommended Action:

Subject to approval of the preliminary resolution for the sale of telecommunication bonds, approve the purchase of telephone switching equipment totaling \$4,100,000 for the University of Iowa.

Executive Summary:

Equipment Request The Board's Policy Manual requires Board approval for the purchase of equipment costing more than \$1,000,000.

The University of Iowa requests approval to purchase telephone switching equipment for the University's Telecommunication System to replace the 18-year-old equipment, which is no longer supported by the manufacturer.

The replacement is critical to maintaining a reliable campus telephone system that provides service to faculty, staff, and students in all campus buildings including students living in the residence halls.

Replacement equipment was selected through a competitive bidding process as required by Iowa Code and University procedures.

The use of revenue bonds to purchase the equipment will be considered by the Banking Committee (see B.C. 7).

Background and Analysis:

Equipment Location The Telecommunications System, an integral part of the University of Iowa Department of Information Technology Services, provides telephone service to faculty, staff, and students in all buildings on campus.

Purpose The existing telephone switching equipment was purchased in 1985. It is past its useful life and no longer supported by the manufacturer. Hardware and software upgrades and patches are no longer being developed, and availability of replacement parts is limited.

Bid Process The replacement equipment was selected through a competitive proposal process open to all equipment manufacturers and vendors in accordance with applicable University and State of Iowa procurement procedures and processes. The Purchasing Department received eleven initial proposals offering equipment from six manufacturers.

Award Subject to Board approval of the preliminary resolution for the sale of telecommunication revenue bonds, the award will be made to NEC Business Network Solutions. The firm's proposal was determined to be the best fit for the University's environment by satisfying the immediate requirements and positioning the campus to meet longer-term needs.

NEC Business Network Solutions Benefits of the equipment proposed to be purchased include:

- Ability to deploy voice services in a cost effective manner based on various levels of user need;
- No significant change to operating costs;
- Minimal disruption to, and re-training of, users and operational staff; and
- Positioning the Campus for future new services as needed.

Time Frame Implementation processes are expected to span an eighteen-month period.


Jean A. Friedrich

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols