

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING  
FOR A SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

**AGENCY:** District of Columbia Public Schools  
Office of the Chief of Schools  
**CAPTION:** NTHS Model Implementation at H.D. Woodson STEM High School  
**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** New Technology Network, LLC  
**CONTRACT NO.** GAGA-2015-C-0016

**FINDINGS**

**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Code 2-354.04.5 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1700

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of the Chief of Schools has an immediate need to procure the services of New Technology Network, LLC (NTN) to implement the New Tech High School (NTHS) Model at HD Woodson STEM High School during Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

**3. ESTIMATED COST:**

The estimated cost is \$137,000.

**3. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

New Technology Network, LLC is the recommended vendor to implement the New Tech High School (NTHS) Model at HD Woodson STEM High School during the 2014-2015 school year. NTN works with schools, districts, and communities to develop innovative public school by providing services and support that enable schools to fundamentally rethink teaching and learning.

**Background and history of this vendor with DCPS**

New Tech Network (NTN) is a national school development organization that starts and supports innovative public high schools. New Tech schools are small, student-centered high schools that use engaging, project-based learning supported by the seamless use and application of technology to prepare students for success in college and today's world of work. Through strategic consulting, personalized coaching, regional and national training events, and online resources, NTN provides a wide-range of professional services to help communities build thriving New Tech schools that achieve meaningful student outcomes. The Network currently has over 150 schools in urban, rural, and suburban school districts throughout the country.

NTN is a nonprofit organization that transforms schools into innovative learning environments. NTN's project-based learning approach engages students with dynamic, rigorous curriculum. Through extensive professional development and hands-on coaching, NTN's teachers evolve from keepers of knowledge to facilitators of rich, relevant learning.

The New Tech High School Model was first established in 1996 in Napa, California where Napa High School was a good school but was only meeting the basic standards of education and therefore, would not be enough for graduating students to have the skills to meet the needs and demands of the new economy. Through meeting with local business leaders and education advocates, the local school district decided to innovate how education could be in the future. From here, Napa New Technology High School was created.

The school had thrived and in 2001, NTN was awarded \$6 million in grant funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. From here, more and more schools were established with the NTHS Model. Through research and experience, NTN created a rigorous and engaging high school experience that features project-based learning, the seamless use of technology, and a positive and empowering school culture.

### **The Proposed Vendor's Unique Qualifications:**

Based on NTN's 2014 Student Outcome Report, DCPS has determined NTN is uniquely qualified to implement the NTHS Model at HD Woodson HS because:

1. NTN provides school districts coaching and support through in-depth informative tours for planning teams, strategic support for a sustainable school implementation, application procedures which lead to customizable services, a Planning Academy course for opportunities around leadership and teacher residency, and various on-site readiness visits to gauge commitment and capacity of the partner school district.
2. NTN offers an extensive coaching program which allows staff to gain the skills they need to confidently implement the NTHS Model through providing four years of on-site and remote services, supporting the cultivation of a school culture that focuses on student achievement, coaching to successfully implement project-based school-wide learning, and offering virtual workshops to bridge a personalized pathway for student growth.
3. NTN's learning management system, Echo, is efficiently designed to support project-based learning, facilitate communication and collaboration, and improve teacher practice. Echo allows all users (students, teachers, parents) daily access to course resources, project plans, assignments a multi-dimensional gradebook, online groups, and an extensive library of instructional resources for teachers. The Echo platform is accessible 24/7 with an internet connection. With NTN's broad experience with technology, teachers have access to hundreds of projects that can be customized and implemented in the classroom.
4. Google Apps for Education is seamlessly integrated into the platform to provide schools with a powerful suite of communication and publishing tools including Gmail, Google Docs, and Google Sites.
5. The NTHS Model is specifically designed to make students responsible for their own curriculum while providing additional technical support through the Echo platform. Teachers have the ability to track student behavior through student feedback all through the platform. Sample rubrics and training materials are available through the online portal.

The success of the NTHS Model of re-imagining education has shown that New Tech students graduate from high school at a rate of 14% higher than the national average, New Tech students enroll in college at a rate of 9% higher than the national average, and New Tech students persist in college at a rate of 83%. NTN strives to ensure all students have the skills, knowledge, and attributes they need to be successful in post-secondary education, career, and civic life.

DCPS cannot afford to contract with a vendor that does not have the depth of experience in creating a technology driven high school that NTN offers.

In light of the above findings a sole source award is in the best interest of DCPS and would be the most efficient, reliable, and cost-effective procurement method.

**CERTIFICATION BY THE DCPS PROGRAM OFFICE:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and the anticipated cost to DCPS is fair and reasonable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Chief Operations

**CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION**

Based on the above certified findings in accordance cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1700).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Chief Procurement Officer