

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING  
FOR A SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

**AGENCY:** District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Academic Services - CTE  
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**CAPTION:** Robotics Parts and Materials  
**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** AndyMark, Inc.  
**CONTRACT NO.:** RQ879022

**FINDINGS**

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**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Code 2-354.04.5 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Office of Chief Academic Officer, Career & Technical Education has a need for a vendor to provide robotics part during the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) from January to February, 2014.

**3. ESTIMATED COST:**

The estimated cost is \$15,160

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

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Career and Technology Education recommends the services of AndyMark to provide robotics parts and supplies for up to eight (8) DC Public Schools as they compete in various robotics competitions throughout the 2015 school year.

**Background and History:**

DCPS's participation in robotics competitions gives its students a positive, exciting experience with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), which are all topics that are often stereotyped as boring and brainy. The robotics competition is an opportunity for students not only to have fun with engineering and building a robot, but also to meet people already in the field as well as other motivated students with similar interests, from a large international community. As a result, these robotics competitions effect on reducing drop-out rates, increasing interest in school-work, raising performance in school, and increasing enrollment in post-secondary education has been clearly demonstrated over the last 20 years.

Additionally, students who participated in the Robotics programs will:

- Better appreciate what scientists, engineers, and technologists do in the work
- Have a better understanding of what career opportunities there are in STEM industries and what education is required to be successful in these careers
- Be more likely to enroll in STEM courses at high school and post-secondary levels
- Perform better in mathematics, technology, and science classes

- Be more likely to stay in school and graduate in four years
- Be more likely to enroll in post-secondary education
- Be better prepared for success in post-secondary education and subsequent careers
- Be more well-rounded with extracurricular and academic experiences
- Be more likely to become a fully contributing resident of the District of Columbia

These observations were affirmed in a Brandeis University study, which also reached the following conclusions, regarding students who participated in the robotics competition:

- Roughly ten times as likely to have had an apprenticeship, internship, or co-op job in the freshman year
- Significantly more likely to expect to achieve a post graduate degree
- More than twice as likely to volunteer in their communities

Clearly, the robotics competition attracts and breeds students who are not only proficient in math and the sciences, but also are committed to citizenship—making a difference in their communities and in the world.

The following ten (8) schools participated in past *FIRST* Robotics Competitions (FRC) and are anticipated to do so again in 2015:

**Robotics Competitions (FRC)**

- ✓ Anacostia High School
- ✓ Ballou High School
- ✓ CHEC
- ✓ Dunbar High School
- ✓ McKinley Technology High School
- ✓ Phelps High School
- ✓ School Without Walls
- ✓ Wilson High School

The Manager, CTE conducted a market survey with the following vendors who were similar in Robotics expertise. Upon review and assessment of their expertise is recommending AndyMark:

1. AndyMark
2. BaneBots
3. DigiKey
4. Vex
5. Home Depot

**The Proposed Vendor’s Unique Qualifications:**

AndyMark, Inc. aims to support and grow robotics education and innovative mechanical design for mobility applications. AndyMark has over 50 years of engineering experience and have been mentors in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) since 1998. Currently, AndyMark is one of the leading distributors and makers of robotics parts within the robotics mobility and competition market. AndyMark, Inc. provides an unmatched variety and quality of robotics parts.

In addition to being a recognized leader in providing robotics parts, AndyMark has the capability to provide specific robotics parts within a narrow six-week timeframe to support eight (8) DC Public Schools participating in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition between January and February, 2015. AndyMark has many years of experience supporting high school teams that compete in the FRC. This competition is unique in that it has a very specific and short time frame in which the students must design, build and test a robot. Once a needed part is identified, the speed of fulfillment by the vendor becomes a competitive advantage for the team. AndyMark has agreed to, and has demonstrated through past performance, that they are capable of providing the needed parts expeditiously and without delay during the competition.

Additionally, AndyMark is located domestically and is the sole provider that can ensure timely delivery of the robotics parts on an as-needed basis during the six (6) weeks of competition.

In light of the above findings a sole source award is in the best interest of the DCPS Office of Career and Technology and to prevent interruption during the competition, it is in the best interest of DCPS to procure the robotics parts from AndyMark. This will be the most advantageous method of fulfilling the District’s need, when price and other factors are considered.

**CERTIFICATION BY THE DCPS PROGRAM MANAGER:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Office of Career and Technology Education

**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 1702.

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Date

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Chief Procurement Officer