

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING
FOR A SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools
School Turnaround and Performance Division
CAPTION: Data Dashboard Maintenance
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Tandem Conglomerate, LLC
CONTRACT NO. RQ940255

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Code 2-354.04 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), School Turnaround and Performance Division (STPD), has an immediate need to procure the services of Tandem Conglomerate, LLC to perform operations and maintenance of our School Performance Data Initiative (SPDI) dashboard. SPDI is a web-based dashboard that consolidates and arranges various data points in a single platform so data can be monitored at a glance. The SPDI dashboard is essential for all DCPS schools to provide targeted support to students; in addition to supporting school leaders in the monitoring of progress towards their Comprehensive School Plan and IMPACT goals (human capital decisions). DCPS collects a wide range of K-12 data from various data sources and stores the outcome metrics in a SQL database. The frequency of updates to the data varies and is dependent on the metric itself, spanning from weekly to bi-annually.

STPD provides school staff access to SPDI as the system of record for more than 100 priority metrics. SPDI brings focus to important information and communicates it quickly and easily, provides visual displays of information needed to achieve one or more objectives, and improve transparency, accountability and ultimately student achievement. DCPS seeks support in the maintenance and development of the front-end website that displays this data clearly for users. Tandem shall provide services in three specific areas: administration and monitoring of SPDI, system support to end users via help desk, and data refresh activities throughout the proposed period of service.

3. ESTIMATED COST:

The cost is \$50,000 for the proposed period, beginning at execution of the purchase order through 9/30/2017.

3. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

DCPS' School Turnaround and Performance Division within the Office of the Chief of Schools believes it is critical to utilize the services of Tandem in order to accomplish the following goals:

- Access to relevant, timely, and accurate accountability metrics for school leaders and administrators, instructional superintendents, and central office personnel throughout SY16-17
- Regularly updated school profile data sheets and student data reports that consolidate various data points for review and analysis
- Support directly from the vendor to the end users
- Quality assurance for all accountability metrics released to school leaders, and administrators, instructional superintendents, and central office personnel

The abovementioned elements impact every component of the District’s Capital Commitment plans which is comprised of 5 goals: Improving Achievement Rates, Improving Proficiency Rates in the Lowest Performing Schools, Increasing Graduation Rates, Improving Student Satisfaction, and Increasing Enrollment Rates. The 5 goals within the District’s plan all resides in the SPDI dashboard which provides teachers and leaders with real-time data to aid with course corrections through the school year. Additionally, DCPS has invested millions of federal dollars, Race to the Top funds, to conceptualize the dashboard which is now in need of continuous maintenance.

Background and History:

Tandem Conglomerate is an Information Technology solutions provider with extensive expertise in a wide range of technical domains. Tandem has experience with project management, database design, and administration to application integration. This vendor also has experience in a variety of industries, from telecommunications to government, and wide-ranging technical expertise which will be beneficial to the District. Tandem has been working with the District of Columbia Public Schools for 10 years in a variety of technical roles including building, maintaining, integrating and supporting DCPS’s variety of administration systems, giving them first-hand knowledge of DCPS’ technical environment and business process needs. In SY15-16, STPD partnered with Tandem to revamp and redesign the SPDI dashboard, to make it a truly powerful and useful data tool for school leaders. The goal was to develop a tool that would allow access to data that could be reviewed and analyzed by school leaders, school-based administrators, and Academic Leadership Teams in order to inform instructional, organizational, and programmatic decision-making. As a result of the partnership between STPD and Tandem, the new, dynamic and interactive SPDI dashboard launched at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

Their services are focused on helping to implement, enhance, and efficiently utilize information systems. Tandem’s expertise in IT project management, infrastructure services, application integration, and software development was acquired through years of working on large-scale enterprise projects.

The Proposed Vendor’s Unique Qualifications:

Tandem Conglomerate is an Information Technology solutions provider with extensive expertise in a wide range of technical domains, including technical infrastructure development, application integration, database design and administration, and software development. Tandem has been working with the District of Columbia Public Schools for 10 years in a variety of technical roles including building, maintaining, integrating and supporting DCPS’s variety of

administration systems, giving them first-hand knowledge of DCPS' technical environment and business process needs.

In collaboration with and directed by STPD's needs and vision, Tandem, designed, built, and deployed a robust architecture for SPDI by performing the full life cycle services to deliver STPD's requirements. As a result of their work on the SPDI redesign, Tandem has extensive experience with the systems and data interfacing with the SPDI platform. They have previously been granted direct access to the source environment and systems that provide data for SPDI, are aware of and understand the business rules that are applied to all accountability metrics, and have the necessary conventions in place to execute all tasks necessary to achieve the goals listed about.

In light of these findings a sole source award is in the best interest of the SPDI project and would be the most efficient and cost-effective procurement method.

Adverse Impact:

It will be cost prohibitive to allow a different vendor that is unfamiliar or lack the experience with the architecture for SDPI's platform operations and maintenance to provide the operations and maintenance requirements especially as continuity of the existing system is crucial to sustaining and maintaining the goals of STPD).

CERTIFICATION BY THE DCPS PROGRAM:

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

_____ Date

_____ School Turnaround and Performance Division

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

_____ Chief Procurement Officer