

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION/REPORT

The District President recommends the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of a security information and event management (SIEM) solution from GTS Technology Solutions for the Information Security department

BACKGROUND

Large breaches or exposure of confidential information and emerging cybersecurity threats are becoming more frequent. The District must be prepared to respond to such events to ensure that essential business processes are not slowed or stopped due to an incident and that student and employee data is not compromised. Adequate detection capabilities will improve the ability to discover a breach quickly and provide the information necessary to respond rapidly and thoroughly. SIEM tools collect, store, analyze and report on data produced by various applications, devices, and systems from across the network. This data is used to identify signs of a data breach or cyber-attack by flagging and prioritizing potential threats.

Reference number (REF) 4421 was issued to track the volume of spend for security information and event management. GTS Technology Solutions has a contract through the DIR cooperative purchasing program to provide IT security hardware, software, and services (Contract Number DIR-TSO-3834). It complies with the competitive procurement requirements outlined in Section 44.031 of the Texas Education Code, as permitted through Section 791.011 of the Texas Government Code.

IMPACT OF THIS ACTION

The Department of Information Resources (DIR) created the Texas Cybersecurity Council to ensure that critical infrastructure and sensitive information are protected. DIR established baseline security standards for Texas state agencies and institutions of higher education. GTS Technology's solution meets requirements for all security plans to include the DIR security plan required by Texas HB 3834. GTS Technology will provide tools the District needs to prevent, mitigate and investigate cyber threats and attacks on the District's network.

BUDGET INFORMATION (INCLUDING ANY STAFFING IMPLICATIONS)

This purchasing request is for spend authorization of \$125,000, which is budgeted in the Chief Information Security Officer's FY21 operating budget.

MONITORING AND REPORTING TIMELINE

The contract term will be March 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.

RESOURCE PERSONNEL

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