



MEMORANDUM
Office of the Chief Information Officer

To: Dr. Ponce and the Board of Trustees

From: Caleb Hogue

Date: March 17, 2025

Re: Consideration for approving a purchase issued to DataDefense Partners for Network Equipment through the Equalis Cooperative.

Staff Recommendation: Approval

The Board is asked to approve a purchase issued to DataDefense Partners for Network Equipment through the Equalis Cooperative.



Purchase Approval

Description: Consideration for approving a purchase issued to DataDefense Partners for Network Equipment through the Equalis Cooperative

Recommendation: The Board is asked to approve a purchase issued to DataDefense Partners for Network Equipment through the Equalis Cooperative.

As part of the building process, Temple College Information Technology Services is responsible for purchasing, installing, and maintaining all network equipment in each building. As part of the expansion, the department recommends replacing some core infrastructure to add additional capacity to meet the networking needs of each new building.

As new programs are created, the requirements for network infrastructure continue to grow to accommodate advancements in artificial intelligence, Industry 4.0, cybersecurity, and computer-aided drafting, among others. This purchase aims to provide faster, redundant connections throughout our core network infrastructure and to each networking closet, limiting the effects of cable or switch failures to as few users as possible.

This purchase will also increase the security posture of Temple College while leveraging the power of Artificial Intelligence in the areas of Data-Loss Prevention to protect against accidental misuse of confidential data, and Operational Technology Security to protect against threats targeted toward internet connected mechanical devices, like lighting controls, air conditioning, and medical technology devices.

This purchase includes firewalls, data center switches, campus layer switches, and all access layer switches, wireless access points, and telephones for Temple Main, Workforce/Visual Arts, and Health Science Center projects. This equipment comes with support and will sustain the expected growth over the next five years.

DataDefense Partners was chosen due to their previous experience with the college, and through competitive pricing offered through the manufacturer.

The Board of Trustees is asked to approve a purchase issued to DataDefense Partners in the amount of \$719,747.16. The contract is offered through Equalis cooperative agreement, contract TC-COG-2127C. This cooperative meets the College's requirements for competitive solicitations found in Texas Education Code 44. The Board of Trustees is also asked to give authority to the Director of Purchasing to approve the contract and to approve any change orders up to the amount allowed by the Texas Education Code 44.0411.

Item 9-C



Funds Available:

_____ Budgeted

___X___ Fund Balance 62 (Bond Projects)

___ Other:

Approved:

Christina Ponce
President

Date