



Motion No. M2021-79

Contract for a Track Condition and Wayside Noise Diagnostic System and Database Noise and Vibration Program

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
System Expansion Committee	12/09/2021	Final Action	Moises Gutierrez, Executive Director – Portfolio Services Office Shankar Rajaram, Manager – Engineering, Rail Vehicles

Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to assign a contract previously executed with Acoustics Strategies, Inc. dba ATS Consulting to Spy Pond Partners, LLC., for a track condition and wayside noise diagnostic system and database for the Noise and Vibration Program for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,043,308.

Key features summary

- This contract was initially executed with Acoustic Strategies, Inc. dba ATS Consulting in November 2016, through Motion No. M2016-114, and included twelve one-year contract options.
- In September 2020, through Motion No. M2020-53, the Sound Transit Board authorized the execution of three consecutive one-year extension options and extended the contract to December 14, 2023 for a not to exceed amount of \$4,043,308.
- Acoustics Strategies, Inc. has informed Sound Transit that they are closing their business as the owner is retiring and requested the contract be assigned to Spy Pond Partners, LLC. Spy Pond Partners is currently a sub-contractor to Acoustics Strategies, Inc. on this contract and is a women-owned small business firm based out of Massachusetts. There is no risk of losing the knowledge base as most of the key people who worked on this contract for the past 5 years will continue to work on the contract after its assignment to Spy Pond Partners, LLC.
- Spy Pond Partners, LLC is a women-owned small business firm based out of Massachusetts and specializes in Transportation Management Consulting. It has several projects with State DOTs and the federal government including FTA, FHWA, and National Academy of Sciences. It is slightly larger than Acoustics Strategies, Inc.
- There is no change to the scope of work as a result of assignment to Spy Pond Partners, LLC., which includes development of advanced features in the hardware and software; and collection of additional field data. The contract tasks include:
 - Periodic rail and wheel condition change measurements.
 - Periodic onboard noise measurements, analysis, and recommendations.
 - Periodic wayside noise and vibration measurements, analysis, and recommendations.
 - Ride quality assessments, vehicle characterization, and advance ride quality index.

- Development and application of user interface and advanced trend analysis tools.
- Periodic rail and wheel condition change measurements.
- Analytics for remaining useful life estimates for the rail.
- All contract terms including pricing, payment and option years as authorized in Motions M2016-114 and M2020-53 will remain unaffected by this change.

Background

In November 2016, Motion No. M2016-114 authorized a three-year contract with twelve one-year options to extend with ATS Consulting for a noise diagnostic system and database to guide Sound Transit's maintenance and noise management program. Under this authorization, Phase 1 and 2 of the contract included development of a custom-built diagnostic tool to efficiently scan the relative noise levels along the light rail alignment. It also included scope to perform periodic noise data collection, resulting in a database that allows the agency to proactively identify areas that need detailed investigation or additional maintenance. The tool was developed and implemented into the Link light rail system for periodic data collection in 2017. The routine data set and preliminary analysis indicated opportunities to optimize the wheel rail interface and the need to perform a more detailed study.

In November 2018, Motion No. M2018-144 amended the contract to authorize and fund a contract option for a detailed wheel rail interaction study to help mitigate risks for Northgate Link vibration under the University of Washington. The study is on-going and includes computer modeling and field-testing of Sound Transit's light rail vehicles, evaluation of vehicle components, and recommendations for optimized wheel and rail surface shapes. The information will also help identify appropriate maintenance cycles when there will be two types of light rail vehicles. This work could also help Sound Transit Link light rail operations to manage train noise and vibration to comply with federal and local commitments on a sustained basis.

In February 2020, a single one-year extension was executed to develop advanced features in the hardware and software, collect additional field data to improve quality of the information in the database for troubleshooting noise, vibration and ride quality issues in the future.

In September 2020, Motion No. M2020-53 approved the execution of three consecutive one-year extension options and extended the contract to December 14, 2023 for a not to exceed amount of \$4,043,308. Several tasks are currently carried under this contract to perform rail wear studies, wheel rail interaction mechanisms, onboard noise levels, vibration characteristics and remaining service life determination of tracks.

Procurement information

Sound Transit issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Track Condition and Wayside Noise Diagnostic System and Database services in June 2016. Three proposals were received in July 2016. Acoustics Strategies, Inc. (dba ATS Consulting) was determined to be the highest-ranked firm and awarded the contract in December 2016.

This contract has a potential Term of 15 years (three base years, plus 12 one-year options). The first option was executed in 2019. In 2020, an action to execute three option years was authorized by Sound Transit's board for a new end date of December 14, 2023. One of the three options has been applied with the second to be applied this month. For the proposed options, lump sum deliverables and hourly unit rates were determined to be fair and reasonable. Annual escalation is based on Employment Cost Index Series ID CIU20154000000001, not seasonally adjusted.

Fiscal information

There is no fiscal impact to this action. It is a contract reassignment from Acoustics Strategies, Inc. to Spy Pond Partners, LLC.

The Acoustics Strategies, Inc. contract was approved under Motion No. M2020-53, for the execution of three consecutive one-year extension options and extended the contract to December 14, 2023 for a not to exceed amount of \$4,043,308. The contract remains funded through the Noise Abatement Program.

There is no change to the contract amount and the action was within the authorized project allocation and sufficient monies remain to fund the remaining work in the final design phase after the approval.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Sound Transit promotes and encourages small business participation, which also includes Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). Small Business and DBE goals are based upon an examination of subcontracting opportunities contained in the work of this contract and the number of Small Businesses/DBEs available to perform such subcontracting work.

Sound Transit determined that there were few Small Business and DBE subcontracting opportunities based upon the work described in this contract. Therefore, Small Business/DBE goals were not established or required. This remains same as the original contract.

Public involvement

Not applicable to this action.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would not have a significant impact to this project.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Motion No. M2020-53: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with Acoustics Strategies, Inc. dba ATS Consulting to exercise three consecutive one-year extension options to provide a track condition and wayside noise diagnostic system and database for the Noise and Vibration Program in the amount of \$2,235,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$4,043,308.

Motion No. M2018-144: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute a contract amendment with Acoustics Strategies, Inc. (dba ATS Consulting) to provide a track condition and wayside noise diagnostic system and database in the amount of \$449,308, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,158,308.

Motion No. M2016-114: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute a three year contract with twelve one-year options to extend with Acoustics Strategies, Inc. (dba ATS Consulting) to provide a Track Condition and Wayside Noise Diagnostic System and Database for the Noise and Vibration Program in the amount of \$709,000.

Environmental review – KH 11/29/21

Legal review – AJP 12/3/21



Motion No. M2021-79

A motion of the System Expansion Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to assign a contract previously executed with Acoustics Strategies, Inc. dba ATS Consulting to Spy Pond Partners, LLC., for a track condition and wayside noise diagnostic system and database for the Noise and Vibration Program for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,043,308.

Background

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There is no change to the scope of work as a result of assignment to Spy Pond Partners, LLC., which includes development of advanced features in the hardware and software; and collection of additional field data. The contract tasks include:

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- Analytics for remaining useful life estimates for the rail.

All contract terms including pricing, payment and option years as authorized in Motions M2016-114 and M2020-53 will remain unaffected by this change.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the System Expansion Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to assign a contract previously executed with Acoustics Strategies, Inc. dba ATS Consulting to Spy Pond Partners, LLC., for a track condition and wayside noise diagnostic system and database for the Noise and Vibration Program for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,043,308.

APPROVED by the System Expansion Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on _____.

Claudia Balducci
System Expansion Committee Chair

Attest:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator