

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
PURCHASING DIVISION**

DATE: February 27, 2023

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: Michael C. Zito, Interim County Administrator
Kristin Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Jennifer Hyde, Purchasing Manager

SUBJECT: Award of Bid 2023024 – Annual Bid for Bulk Carbon Dioxide for Water Treatment Plants

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Utility Services has purchased Bulk Liquid Carbon Dioxide (CO²) for the North County and South County RO Plants under various piggyback contracts awarded by other Florida municipalities. Purchases through the end of 2022 were made from Matheson (Matheson) Tri-Gas, piggybacking a Seacoast Utility Authority bid. That contract expired on December 31, 2022, and staff anticipated utilizing a Palm Beach County contract after that time.

On January 5, 2023, the Purchasing Division received notification from Matheson that there were no longer allowing piggybacks to bids, “due to significant increases over the last year.” Purchasing and Utilities staff worked together to quickly issue a bid for CO² on January 10, 2023.

BID RESULTS:

Advertising Date: January 10, 2023
 Bid Opening Date: February 7, 2023
 Broadcast to: 113 Subscribers
 Bid Documents Obtained by: 5 subscribers
 Replies: 4 vendors

Firm	Location	Price per Pound	Annual cost for 2,128,000 pounds
Airgas USA	Tampa, FL	\$0.265	\$563,920
Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc.	Irving, TX	\$0.23	\$489,440
Linde, Inc.	Danbury, CT	No Bid – cannot deliver supply required	
Univar Solutions	Kent, WA	No Bid – no support in our area for this product	

The price paid under the Seacoast piggyback was \$0.13 per pound, for an estimated total \$276,640 annual cost. That price had been effective since December 16, 2020.

After the public bid opening and during additional responsiveness review of the bids with the Attorney’s office, the Matheson bid was found to have not been properly signed. Most notably, the notary signature on the disclosure of relationships form, required by Section 105.08 of the Indian River County Code of Ordinances, was computer generated, but not a legal electronic signature. As a result, the Matheson bid was determined to be non-responsive, and the vendor was notified.

The Purchasing Manual authorizes negotiation when a single responsive bid is received. When contacted by the Purchasing Division about reducing their bid price, Airgas USA offered to reduce its bid price to \$0.23 per pound. The Department has determined that Airgas is responsible and has recommended award to them.

The term of award is one year, with two one-year renewals available, subject to vendor acceptance, satisfactory performance, and staff’s determination that renewal is in the best interest of the County.

FUNDING:

Funds in the amount of \$229,000 for anticipated need for the remainder of the fiscal year will come from the Utilities/Water Production/Chemicals Account, number 47121936-035230, in the operating fund. Operating funds are derived from water and sewer sales.

Description	Account Number	Remainder of FY 22/23 Amount
Utilities/Water Production/Chemicals	47121936-035230	\$229,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board award Bid 2023024, at the negotiated price, to Airgas USA, and authorize the Purchasing Manager to issue purchase orders, and execute renewals with no change to prices or terms.