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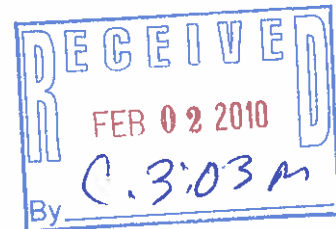
**FRANK B. MORENO, CSR-RPR**  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

**ALICIA SALINAS**  
COURT BAILIFF/INTERPRETER

**NOÉ GONZALEZ**

JUDGE, 370<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HIDALGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
100 N. CLOSNER, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR  
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539  
(956) 318-2280

February 2, 2010



**TO:** Martha L. Salazar, CPPB  
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent

**FM:** Hon. Noé González  
Judge Presiding

**RE:** Turnkey Purchase and Installation for new Audio and Video System for Hidalgo County  
370<sup>th</sup> District Court  
Bid No. 2010-034-01-20-MSS

This memo is to serve as notice of my recommendation on the bids submitted on the Audio/Video System for the 370<sup>th</sup> State District Court.

At first blush the lower bid seems logical until you begin to examine the products chosen by each bidder. Generally, the overall "quality" of the products that are included in the bid by "Hi Tech" (the higher bid) are far superior to those products included by "Starr Telecom". I have personally done the leg work on the research and have concluded that in the long run, it would be more beneficial and cost-effective to the taxpayers of our county to accept the "Hi Tech" bid.

The only products that I could compare are the DVR, the AMPLIFIER, and the CAMERAS, because the specs on the speakers, the wireless tuner and wireless microphones, were not provided by Starr Telecom, which is disturbing to me.

I have been on the bench for over 15 years and have always had problems with the speaker and microphone systems that I have had available, therefore, quality is extremely important in order to assure reliability. The DVR that "Starr" includes in their quote has the lowest level of performance even in that company's product comparison as opposed to what "Hi Tech" offers, which is of better quality, durability, and more importantly, reliability. The AMPLIFIER included by "Starr" is fine, although that product company makes excellent microphones, their amplifiers are middle of the road as opposed to what "Hi Tech" offers, which in my opinion is better and more reliable.

Now, the cameras included by "Starr" as compared to those included by "Hi Tech" are not even close in comparison. The quality, reliability and performance by those offered by "Hi Tech" far exceed those offered by Starr. The cameras' costs are far different because the products are far different. Finally, the installation charges are higher by "Starr" than "Hi Tech" for the same work.

Based on my independent research into the included products on these bids, I recommend that "Hi Tech" be awarded the bid. I have no problem with Starr Telecom, however, on these bids, the most important issues to me have to be quality, durability, and reliability of products we will use on a daily basis. The taxpayers will actually get a better deal for their money in the long run. We must assure that our courts work efficiently and avoid unnecessary delays due to malfunctions with equipment.

If you have any question with reference to this memo, feel free to contact me as soon as possible.