Notice of Intent to Sole Source

Posting Date: 10/16/14

It is the intention of Trident Technical College to sole source the procurement of:

Beechcraft King Air 90 LJ-85

Trident Technical College needs current industry standard aircraft for the Aeronautical Studies program. While TTC does not need new equipment for our training programs, acquiring more modern aircraft is necessary to maintain the quality of instruction, increase flexibility and relevance to industry-wide maintenance practices as well as address safety concerns. Newer aircraft will enable the Aircraft Maintenance and Avionics programs to provide more state-of-the-art training platforms and enhance the prestige of the programs both to prospective students and employers of future graduates.

TTC's Aeronautical Studies program currently uses surplus military jet aircraft that were produced in 1962 and delivered to TTC in 1988 after years of use by the US military. In order to continue providing quality instruction to prospective aircraft maintenance technicians, TTC must acquire aircraft that represent current and near-future civilian fleet equipment. After twenty-four years of student use, these last-generation aircraft have reached unsatisfactory material condition, raising safety concerns. Additionally, all known used aircraft operable replacement components and repair parts are extremely scarce and prohibitively expensive. As a result, these current aircraft have reached a point of rapidly diminishing returns for any further investment.

TTC Aeronautical staff conducted market research through known used aircraft websites, including www.controller.com, www.globalair.com, www.avbuyer.com, www.aso.com, www.aircraft.com, www.trade-a-plane.com, and www.buisnessair.com. In addition to the online research, Aeronautical staff made trips to Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina to look at several aircraft in the business aircraft class that might meet the training needs criteria for the program(s). Aeronautical staff concluded that the Beechcraft King Air is the only available turboprop aircraft currently seen on the market that meets the programs needs for the following reasons:

1. The size of the King Air is suited for TTC’s outside ramp. Only small aircraft represented on the ramp. Larger aircraft would not fit on this ramp.
2. Instructors in the department have specific experience on this aircraft / systems / engines. PT-6 engine instructors have 10+ years’ experience working on this engine.
3. Aeronautical Studies have existing aircraft trainers (air cycle machine, vapor cycle system, fire protection, pressurization system etc.) that are compatible with this King Air aircraft. Students will get hands-on experience on the system that are represented in the lab.
4. The avionics equipment on this King Air as equipped will meet the Avionics need for updated avionics and reinforce systems that are already incorporated into the existing curriculum.
5. The King Air is large enough to qualify for training on business category aircraft which is necessary to satisfy FAA requirements as well as industry needs as recommend by TTC’s local advisory committee, yet small enough to transport to the Berkeley campus via Berkeley County airport and road transportation.
6. The King Air 90 LJ-85 is one of the most common business class turboprops.
7. This particular model has the engines, props, and accessories that fit our power plant curriculum better than other aircraft configurations.
8. King Air is fitted with PT6-20 series engine making it easier to locate parts.
9. The ACM program currently possess a PT6-20 mock-up engine, saving the need to buy a compatible mock-up to match the aircraft.
10. The PT-6 engines on the King Air satisfy the need for turbo-prop maintenance training which is currently not available.
11. This aircraft is airworthy from an FAA inspection standpoint and provides students with hands on experience on flyable equipment and will provide a much more real world training scenario for the students. Purchasing aircraft in an airworthy condition is a more sure comparison of
the condition of aircraft since the majority of systems would not only have to be installed on the aircraft, but would have to be operational as well. Nowhere is this more important than when it comes to the engines which often represent up to 25% of the total cost of an aircraft.

12. The overall interior equipment and furnishings are in good condition.
13. The exterior protective coatings is intact and in excellent condition.
14. The avionics equipment is operable and in good condition.
15. The turboprops are in overall excellent condition.
16. The King Air has a cockpit that is roomy enough to accommodate several students at the same time, yet is not so large as to prohibit the transport to our campus.
17. The aircraft can be flown, at the sellers expense, to the Berkeley County Airport, which is adjacent to our facility, in order to reduce the relocation cost.

TTC Aeronautical Studies program has a rare opportunity to acquire this particular late model King Air business aircraft that meets the training needs of our program. While the business aircraft market is large, with many new and used aircraft for sale, the available market for appropriate training aircraft is small due to training budgetary constraints.

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Contact by deadline: 11/03/2014 5:00 PM EST

Notice of Sole Source will be posted at the following physical address and website address on 11/05/2013:

    Trident Technical College
    Procurement Office
    2050 Mabeline Road, Suite G
    North Charleston, SC 29406

    http://www.tridenttech.edu/procurement_prcpostings.htm