

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve a new services contract with **Link Oregon** for **Internet Services**.

Board Meeting Date: November 2, 2020
Project Name/Contract #: Internet Services/20-201-S
Primary Contact: Travis Knabe Ext. 7770

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$225,000 (Over 5 Years)
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$0
Invoices over last approval: \$0.00
Percentage over last approval: 0%
Amount this Request: \$225,000
Resulting Cumulative Total: \$225,000 (Est. \$45,000 per year over 5 years)

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Sole Source
If applicable, basis for exemption: EWEB Rule 3-0275
Term of Agreement: June 30, 2025. Renewable up to 3 additional years
Option to Renew? Yes
Approval for purchases *“as needed”* for the life of the Contract Yes No
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): Direct Negotiation
Selection Basis: Sole Source

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

Link Oregon is an Internet Service Provider (ISP) who provides high-speed, fiber optic broadband connectivity to Oregon’s public and non-profit sectors. Link Oregon allows EWEB a unique opportunity to participate in a high-speed, high-capacity, fiber-optic network allowing for enhanced collaboration and data sharing with government agencies across Oregon. Link Oregon’s fiber network has a diverse path from our other ISP, which provides EWEB with physical path redundancy. This is critical for business continuity.

Contracted Goods or Services

EWEB is purchasing internet services. Link Oregon was established as a non-profit consortium in 2019 in affiliation with Oregon state government (through Oregon’s Enterprise Information Services), Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, and the University of Oregon. Link Oregon provides a public broadband network to Oregon agencies through a high-capacity, resilient network service platform.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB previously purchased internet services from the Network for Engineering and Research in Oregon (NERO) group. NERO is now a member of the larger consortium, Link Oregon. EWEB has leveraged NERO’s unique services for the last few decades, prior to the formation of Link Oregon.

Contract No.	Services	Board Approval Date	Contract Term	Original Contract Amount	Final Contract Amount
N/A	Internet Services - NERO	N/A	7 years	\$99,700	\$99,700
N/A	Internet Services – Link Oregon	N/A	1 year	\$15,000	\$15,000

Purchasing Process

Public entities wishing to purchase internet services from Link Oregon sign Link Oregon’s member agreement. Purchasing and Enterprise Risk staff have reviewed the agreement and have negotiated agreeable terms.

Competitive Fair Price

Information Services staff have evaluated EWEB’s bandwidth needs, including additional capacity required to support a distributed workforce, and heavier presence in Cloud Technologies. EWEB’s back-up ISPs each charge \$12,000 - \$13,000 per year, but neither can provide the high-speed, high-capacity, fiber-optic network needed to meet EWEB’s needs.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve a new services contract **with Link Oregon** for **Internet Services**. Costs for Internet connectivity are planned and budgeted as part of the IS Department O&M budget of \$11.1 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.