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Protest Dismissal

Matter of: VITA Detection USA, Inc.

File No.: 2026-124

Posting Date: November 21, 2025

Contracting Entity: Department of Administration

Solicitation No.: 5400028826

Description: X-Ray Machine

DIGEST

The Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) dismisses the protest as moot based on cancellation of the award due to administrative error of the purchasing agency discovered prior to performance.

AUTHORITY

The Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) conducted an administrative review pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-1520(7) and Regulation 19-445.2085. This decision is based on materials in the procurement file and applicable law and precedents.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

On October 3, 2025, the Department of Administration issued a solicitation for competitive-sealed bids to purchase two X-Ray Machines for use on the State House Grounds. [Exhibit B] On November 7, 2025, an Intent to Award was posted to Point Security, Inc. On November 10, 2025, VITA Detection USA, Inc. protested the Intent to Award. Subsequently, the Department discovered that X-Ray machines are available under a state term contract for Protective Equipment and Supplies. Use of this state term contracts is mandatory for the Department. Therefore, the Department is contractually obliged to purchase this equipment through the state term contract.

Section 11-35-1520(7) authorizes the cancellation of awards or contracts after award but before performance in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board. Regulation 19-445.2085(C) authorizes cancellation due to administrative error of the purchasing agency discovered prior to performance:

After an award or notification of intent to award, whichever is earlier, has been issued but before performance has begun, the award or contract may be canceled and either re-awarded or a new solicitation issued or the existing solicitation canceled, if the Chief Procurement Officer determines in writing that:

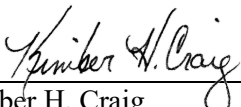
- (1) Inadequate or ambiguous specifications were cited in the invitation;
- (2) Specifications have been revised;
- (3) The supplies, services, information technology, or construction being procured are no longer required;
- (4) The invitation did not provide for consideration of all factors of cost to the State, such as cost of transporting state furnished property to bidders' plants;
- (5) Bids received indicate that the needs of the State can be satisfied by a less expensive article differing from that on which the bids were invited;
- (6) The bids were not independently arrived at in open competition, were collusive, or were submitted in bad faith;
- (7) **Administrative error of the purchasing agency discovered prior to performance**, or
- (8) For other reasons, cancellation is clearly in the best interest of the State.

[emphasis supplied]

The CPO issued a cancellation of the award due to administrative error on the part of the purchasing agency.

DECISION

Due to the cancellation of the award for this solicitation, CPO dismisses the protest of VITA Detection USA, Inc. as moot.



Kimber H. Craig
Chief Procurement Officer

Columbia, South Carolina

STATEMENT OF RIGHT TO FURTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Protest Appeal Notice (Revised July 2025)

The South Carolina Procurement Code, in Section 11-35-4210, subsection 6, states:

(6) Finality of Decision. A decision pursuant to subsection (4) is final and conclusive, unless fraudulent or unless a person adversely affected by the decision requests a further administrative review by the Procurement Review Panel pursuant to Section 11-35-4410(1) within ten days of posting of the decision in accordance with subsection (5). The request for review must be directed to the appropriate chief procurement officer, who shall forward the request to the panel or to the Procurement Review Panel, and must be in writing, setting forth the reasons for disagreement with the decision of the appropriate chief procurement officer. The person also may request a hearing before the Procurement Review Panel. The appropriate chief procurement officer and an affected governmental body shall have the opportunity to participate fully in a later review or appeal, administrative or judicial.

Copies of the Panel's decisions and other additional information regarding the protest process is available on the internet at the following web site: <http://procurement.sc.gov>

FILING FEE: Pursuant to Proviso 111.1 of the 2025 General Appropriations Act, "[r]equests for administrative review before the South Carolina Procurement Review Panel shall be accompanied by a filing fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), payable to the SC Procurement Review Panel. The panel is authorized to charge the party requesting an administrative review under the South Carolina Code Sections 11-35-4210(6), 11-35-4220(5), 11-35-4230(6) and/or 11-35-4410...Withdrawal of an appeal will result in the filing fee being forfeited to the panel. If a party desiring to file an appeal is unable to pay the filing fee because of financial hardship, the party shall submit a completed Request for Filing Fee Waiver form at the same time the request for review is filed. *[The Request for Filing Fee Waiver form is attached to this Decision.]* If the filing fee is not waived, the party must pay the filing fee within fifteen days of the date of receipt of the order denying waiver of the filing fee. Requests for administrative review will not be accepted unless accompanied by the filing fee or a completed Request for Filing Fee Waiver form at the time of filing." PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE "SC PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL."

LEGAL REPRESENTATION: In order to prosecute an appeal before the Panel, business entities organized and registered as corporations, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships must be represented by a lawyer. Failure to obtain counsel will result in dismissal of your appeal. *Protest of Lighting Services*, Case No. 2002-10 (Proc. Rev. Panel Nov. 6, 2002) and *Protest of The Kardon Corporation*, Case No. 2002-13 (Proc. Rev. Panel Jan. 31, 2003); and *Protest of PC&C J&Hs, LLC*, Case No. 2012-1 (Proc. Rev. Panel April 2, 2012). However, individuals and those operating as an individual doing business under a trade name may proceed without counsel, if desired.

South Carolina Procurement Review Panel
Request for Filing Fee Waiver
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 366, Columbia, SC 29201

Name of Requestor

Address

City

State

Zip

Business Phone

-
1. What is your/your company's monthly income? _____
 2. What are your/your company's monthly expenses? _____
 3. List any other circumstances which you think affect your/your company's ability to pay the filing fee:

To the best of my knowledge, the information above is true and accurate. I have made no attempt to misrepresent my/my company's financial condition. I hereby request that the filing fee for requesting administrative review be waived.

Sworn to before me this
_____ day of _____, 20_____

Notary Public of South Carolina

Requestor/Appellant

My Commission expires: _____

For official use only: _____ Fee Waived _____ Waiver Denied

Chairman or Vice Chairman, SC Procurement Review Panel

This _____ day of _____, 20_____
Columbia, South Carolina

NOTE: If your filing fee request is denied, you will be expected to pay the filing fee within fifteen (15) days of the date of receipt of the order denying the waiver.