

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD ACTION

Approval of Contract Exceeding \$2 Million Dollars – Conversion Of Client/Server Programs To J2EE-Based Web Application

BACKGROUND

Board Policy 5.14, Procurement and Contracts, requires pre-approval by the Board of Trustees for contracts exceeding \$2,000,000. The proposed action item is for Board approval of a professional/technical services contract totaling \$4,305,000.

The current Integrated Statewide Records System (ISRS), an information system, was internally written in Cobol (Common Business Oriented Language) programming language using a client/server tool. ISRS provides virtually all of the administrative functions for the schools including course development, admissions, registrations, accounting and human resources. Presently, ISRS has over 2,000 client/server forms and over 1,300 Cobol programs.

In 2004, an ITS division web development team was established to begin identifying and developing new applications using J2EE technology for its internally-developed web portal.

In October 2005, the System executed a 36-month lease of replacement and additional IT hardware essential for increased stability and additional capacity to the ISRS servers for the foreseeable future. That action was required to address the increasing demands on and limited capacity of the aging ISRS servers. The lease on this equipment expires October 16, 2008.

Earlier this year, as a result of the web development team's progress and October 2008 expiration of the leased equipment supporting ISRS, the ITS division began preparing for its migration of client/server application to a J2EE-based web application. During February 2006, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for a consultant to provide additional J2EE technical expertise including user interface design and specifications, technical design, HTML coding, Java/JSP coding and unit functionality testing.

The RFP resulted in nine responses. Five firms were selected for interviews and three finalists were identified by the selection committee.

The ITS division, following its comprehensive search process, proposes entering into a 33-month professional/technical services contract with Object Partners, Incorporated to provide J2EE technical expertise and support. This proposal would enable the ITS division to commence with its migration from the current client/server application to a J2EE-based web application for the ISRS information system.

The contract supports the division's efforts to modernize the operating platform and software for the core information system used by all college and university faculty and staff. The acquisition was contemplated in the ITS Strategic Plan and funded from the special funds provided this year for ITS infrastructure improvements.

The proposed contract would commence October 2, 2006 and expire June 30, 2009.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION

The Finance/Facilities Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves entering into a 33-month professional/technical services contract with Object Partners, Incorporated totaling \$4,305,000 to provide technical expertise and support required for the migration of the System's existing client/server application to a J2EE-based web application for the ISRS information system; and authorizes the Chancellor or his designee to negotiate and execute the contract.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

The Board of Trustees approves entering into a 33-month professional/technical services contract with Object Partners, Incorporated totaling \$4,305,000 to provide technical expertise and support required for the migration of the System's existing client/server application to a J2EE-based web application for the ISRS information system; and authorizes the Chancellor or his designee to negotiate and execute the contract.