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City of Chicago Enterprise Procurement System Project Awarded to AST

Naperville, IL June 6, 2014: The City of Chicago's Department of Procurement Services (DPS) manages approximately 1,425 active contracts for 30 City departments valued at approximately $2 billion dollars per year. To meet the challenges of building a foundation for expanded procurement processes and adopting a city-wide enterprise procurement system, the City has awarded a contract to AST Corporation to design, develop and deploy an Enterprise Procurement System to transition the City's procurement processes to electronic means.

The City wanted an experienced vendor who would provide a thorough assessment of its current procure-to-pay process flows, analysis of current business processes, and who would recommend best practice approaches to re-engineer those processes in order to reduce customization of the City's existing Oracle Procurement applications. Additionally, the City sought the following functionality:

- Capture and store vendor registration information, and communicate with all vendors or those in selected categories
- Electronic catalog capabilities
- Registration-based electronic download of solicitations and addenda, with electronic submission of proposals and clarifying questions
- Streamline and standardize procurement processes both within DPS and with other governmental units, including sister agencies – Chicago Public Schools, City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago Housing Authority

With Oracle Advanced Procurement, AST will help the City cut supply management costs and give DPS the tools to conduct procurement as a strategic discipline. AST recognizes this project award as a significant opportunity to help the City improve access to data, eliminate paper-based processes, reduce redundancy of data, improve the timeliness of information, and provide sustainable savings—year after year.

AST has previously worked with the City of Chicago to establish its 'Contracts on the Web' project. The City is the latest municipal government to contract with AST to establish an online supplier portal, contract management and bid management processes using Oracle Advanced Procurement applications. AST has worked with municipalities such as the City of Atlanta, Georgia, the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Polk County, Florida on their Advanced Procurement solutions.

AST Corporation is a Platinum level member of Oracle PartnerNetwork.

About the City of Chicago

Chicago is a leader in reforming public schools, enhancing public safety and security initiatives, providing affordable housing in attractive and economically sound communities, ensuring accessibility for all and fostering, social, economic and environmental sustainability. As a multicultural city that thrives on the

harmony and diversity of its neighborhoods, Chicago today embodies the values of America's heartland-integrity, hard work and community and reflects the ideals in the social fabric of its 77 distinct neighborhoods.

About Oracle PartnerNetwork

Oracle PartnerNetwork (OPN) Specialized is the latest version of Oracle's partner program that provides partners with tools to better develop, sell and implement Oracle solutions. OPN Specialized offers resources to train and support specialized knowledge of Oracle products and solutions and has evolved to recognize Oracle's growing product portfolio, partner base and business opportunity. Key to the latest enhancements to OPN is the ability for partners to differentiate through Specializations. Specializations are achieved through competency development, business results, expertise and proven success. To find out more visit http://www.oracle.com/partners.

About AST Corporation

Established in 1995, AST Corporation is a Platinum level member of Oracle PartnerNetwork (OPN), Specialized Oracle Applications and Technologies systems integrator, an Oracle University training and delivery partner, and a certified Oracle Cloud Services implementation provider. AST's services encompass all aspects of Oracle E-Business Suite, Business Intelligence, Enterprise Performance Management, Fusion Middleware, and CRM implementations, as well as flexible, on-shore Managed Services and comprehensive Oracle Universtiy courses. AST serves industry-leading public sector and commercial organizations: municipal, state and federal government; public transportation; airport and seaport; K-12 and secondary education; utilities/energy; manufacturing; insurance; retailing; telecommunications. Clients look to AST Corporation for leadership and assistance in systems integration, business process redesign, project management, systems administration and training.

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