



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

August 6, 2024

Resolution authorizing the procurement of a Digester Gas Upgrading System.

Prepared By:	Ben Clark, Senior Engineer
Reviewed By:	Ron Knoche, Public Works Director Geoff Fruin, City Manager Eric Goers, City Attorney
Fiscal Impact:	The City expects to expend approximately \$4,180,932.00. Funds for this purchase are available in the Wastewater Digester Gas Improvements account V3184.
Staff Recommendation:	Approval
Attachments:	Resolution RFP24-14 Agreement

Executive Summary:

On May 6, 2024, the City issued a solicitation for a Digester Gas Upgrading System for its Wastewater Division through the City's online bidding platform. This project aims to enhance the City's ability to recover biogas from the waste treatment process and produce pipeline-quality gas, supporting sustainable energy goals and operational efficiency.

The solicitation closed on June 7, 2024, with responsive proposals received from the following vendors: DMT Clear Gas Solutions, Ivys Adsorption USA, Prodeval Corp, Quadrogen Inc, Sysadvance, and Unison Solutions Inc.

An evaluation committee, comprising of members from the City's wastewater and engineering divisions, assessed the proposals based on pricing, operating cost, equipment longevity, conformance with specifications, schedule, experience and qualifications, and support responsiveness.

Following a comprehensive review, the committee determined that Unison Solutions Inc. submitted the proposal that best meets the City's requirements. Unison Solutions Inc. demonstrated superior performance in critical areas, including cost-effectiveness, operational efficiency, and alignment with project specifications.

Based on these findings, the committee recommends awarding the contract to Unison Solutions Inc.

Background / Analysis:

The City of Iowa City recently commissioned a facility plan for the Digester Complex that, among other things, evaluated energy recovery alternatives for the biogas produced during

the anaerobic digestion of organic matter during the waste treatment process. Staff would like to further pursue an identified alternative that will allow the plant to produce pipeline quality gas for sale on the renewable fuel markets. Potential funding opportunities related to the Inflation Reduction Act have been identified and will be pursued.

With this system, digester gas will be treated to a quality acceptable to the local natural gas utility and injected in a nearby natural gas pipeline. Digester gas that is used as natural gas has considerable value in today's renewable fuel markets through the trading of renewable identification numbers (RINs) by way of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.