



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 14, 2026

Dan McCaugherty
Athena Sciences
320 Adams Street, Suite L01
Fairmont, West Virginia 26554
dan@athenasciences.com

RE: ABIS Proposal

Dear Dan:

At its July 14, 2026 meeting, the Board of Public Works accepted the above referenced proposal and began contract negotiations.

A member of the South Bend Police Department will be in contact.

Sincerely,
/s/Hillary Horvath
Hillary Horvath, Clerk



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 14, 2026

Andre Simenauer
NEC Corporation of America
255 Parkshore Drive, Suite 200
Folsom, CA 95360
Andre.simenauer@necam.com

RE: ABIS Proposal

Dear Andre:

At its July 14, 2026, meeting, the Board of Public Works accepted the above proposal from Athena Sciences.

Thank you for bidding, and we hope you bid with us in the future.

Sincerely,
/s/Hillary Horvath
Hillary Horvath, Clerk



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 14, 2026

Sherlyn Zavaleta
IDEMIA Identity and Security USA LLC
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1800
Reston, VA 20190
Sherlyn.zavaleta@ps-idemia.com

RE: ABIS Proposal

Dear Sherlyn:

At its July 14, 2026, meeting, the Board of Public Works accepted the above proposal from Athena Sciences.

Thank you for bidding, and we hope you bid with us in the future.

Sincerely,
/s/Hillary Horvath
Hillary Horvath, Clerk



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 14, 2026

Gerald Bornhofen
iTouch Biometrics, LLC
gbornhofen@itouchbiometrics.com

RE: ABIS Proposal

Dear Gerald:

At its July 14, 2026, meeting, the Board of Public Works accepted the above proposal from Athena Sciences.

Thank you for bidding, and we hope you bid with us in the future.

Sincerely,
/s/Hillary Horvath
Hillary Horvath, Clerk

The City of South Bend Police Department

July 6, 2026

**SELECTION NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL FOR AN AUTOMATED BIOMETRICS
IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (ABIS)**

SCORING AND SELECTION COMMITTEE

Charles Eakins – SBPD Crime Lab Supervisor / AFIS Administrator / Latent Print Examiner

Sierra Halstead – SBPD Crime Lab – Latent Print Examiner

Catrice Whitlow – Fort Wayne, IN Crime Lab Manager / AFIS Administrator / Latent Print
Examiner

SUBMITTING VENDORS FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – ABIS

NEC Corporation of America

Idemia Identity and Security USA

Athena Sciences

iTouch Biometrics

After carefully vetting these vendor's Proposals, we have unanimously chosen **Athena Sciences** of Fairmont, WV to replace our current AFIS System with their Aegis Cloud Based ABIS Identification System. Although Athena Sciences was the lowest bid, they were not selected solely because of that; they were selected because of their unique approach to a customizable ABIS solution and the first ever Multi-Matcher option which includes the highest NIST rated algorithm(s) available.

Committee members' individual scoring sheets with notes are attached, along with a proposal cost comparison sheet including all four vendors is included.

We respectfully request the Board of Works approval to negotiate a contract with Athena Sciences for their Aegis Automatic Biometric Identification System.

Charles D. Eakins
Crime Lab Supervisor/AFIS Administrator

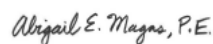
CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS



Elizabeth A. Maradik, President



Murray L. Miller, Member



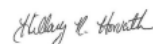
Abigail E. Magas, Member



Joseph R. Molnar, Vice President



Breana N. Micou, Member



Attest: Hillary R. Horvath, Clerk

Date: July 14, 2026

AFIS RFP SCORING SHEET

	General Description	Interface & Workflows	Matching & Performances	System Architecture	Security	Updates, Scalability & Enhancements	Training & Support	TOTALS
	25 points	25 points	25 points	10 points	5 points	5 points	5 points	105
IDEMIA	20	25	20	10	5	5	5	90
NEC	15	20	15	10	5	5	5	75
iTouch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATHENA	25	25	25	10	10	5	5	105

NOTES

IDEMIA: GEN DESC - deducted 10 points because they require an add on to be able to scan fingerprint cards into DB; cost \$132,727 extra Can't create Composite of new records; only migrate old composites.
This system does not create composite event-based tenprint records on new date in an Archive.
To view and print original archives NIST files directly within the STORM ABIS user interface, an 'optional subscription' to the STORM ABIS Archive is required (confusing and more costs).

NEC:

Unfortunately, a long period (3-4 years) of poor system maintenance; unable to provide service when needed.
Lacking in sufficient ranking in speed and accuracy in NIST Fingerprint Evaluation testing in August 2025 (6th).
We experienced at least 6 cases in which we searched a latent print in the FBI database and received a hit, but it did not hit in our system or hit at a lower score, and we had the exact same prints in our system that it hit on at the FBI. Algorithms is the difference; NEC's just don't equal the FBI's (which is Idemia).

iTouch: This is a new vendor 'currently' in beta testing and not truly ready for market according to Gerry Bornhofen, Founder & CEO. They currently do not have any customers using their new iMatch Technology ABIS System.
That, plus the fact that they were the highest bid out of 4 vendors, I did not complete the scoring phase of this RFP for them.

ATHENA: Only vendor to offer multi-matcher algorithms. Their choice for SB is ROC which is #1 in NIST Evaluations.
They provide ABIS for DOW (8 million), DHS 300-400 million) & US Treasury (1 million).
Highly recommended by Mary Hobbs-DoW Product Manager Biometrics.
Willing to work with us and customize our ABIS System to fit our needs. Not an off the shelf solution
Lowest bid of the 4 vendors who submitted proposals.
* Multi Matcher algorithm (Neurotechnology); even after adding this second algorithm to the ROC algorithm to maximize our latent print searching accuracy this is the lowest bid of the 4 competitors.

AFIS RFP SCORING SHEET

	General Description	Interface & Workflows	Matching & Performances	System Architecture	Security	Updates, Scalability & Enhancements	Training & Support	TOTALS
	25 points	25 points	25 points	10 points	5 points	5 points	5 points	/100
IDEMIA	25	25	20	10	5	5	5	95
NEC	25	25	15	5	5	5	2.5	82.5
iTouch	25	25	15	5	5	5	0	80
ATHENA	25	25	25	5	5	5	5	95

Idemia: Additional cost for scanning workstation is a negative, also added cost based on size of card archive is a negative. They lost points in my total for this. Their system was designed by a latent print examiner and with the demos I've seen, their system is more user friendly for latent print examiners. They currently serve the FBI as their Biometric provider for fingerprints, which is positive and shows that their system is one of the best. Looking at their overall rankings for algorithms in the US, they are ranked currently in second place. Looking at the cost over the four companies, they were the most expensive contract at 2,005, 104.00.

NEC: Long history with NEC. Their customer service has failed to live up to the promises they have made. We upgraded to their cloud system three years ago and it has not lived up to what we paid for. Currently, the state police has NEC for their vendor, which I think still gives them a small advantage over competitors in Indiana. Customer service is lacking. We currently have work orders pending that have not been addressed, some have been in the system for almost a year with no resolution. Looking at their overall rankings for algorithms in the US, they are ranked currently in sixth place. They lost points for customer service and algorithm rankings. Looking at the cost, they were the second lowest contract at 1,461,464.00.

AFIS RFP SCORING SHEET

	General Description	Interface & Workflows	Matching & Performances	System Architecture	Security	Updates, Scalability & Enhancements	Training & Support	TOTALS
	25 points	25 points	25 points	10 points	5 points	5 points	5 points	/100
IDEMIA	15	25	20	10	5	5	5	85
NEC	20	25	15	10	5	5	5	85
iTouch	N/A	x	x	x	x	x	x	0
ATHENA	25	25	25	10	5	5	5	100

NOTES

IDEMIA: Printed cards are not IQS compliant (?)
 No composite records
 Fingerprint scanner costs extra/is an add on, not included
 Confused about Archive/access to records

NEC: Still have many unresolved issues within our current system with them
 Missing local hits that will hit in a remote search

iTouch: Beta testing

ATHENA: Supports major case card entry
 Can use the scanners we already have
 Can add/change algorithms used
 Can't mark points (would like especially for palms) - yet
 Can get on-call person - off hours, respond within an hour
 Can do on-site backup

iTouch: We were looking at this company when we updated our smartscan at the jail last year. They do not offer 24hr maintenance package for the smartscan. Looking at the contract it looks like they only offer maintenance and support Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm. They offer four hours of web training with the contract with optional services of additional webinar training and onsite training and travel at an additional cost. They lost points for maintenance support and training. Looking at their overall rankings for algorithms in the US, I could not find anything documented. I went to their website, and they only had information about the Smartscan side of the business, no details on what they offer for ABIS or their algorithm rankings. Looking at the cost over the four companies, they were the second most expensive contract at 1,723,500.00.

Athena: Initial startup costs came in second highest but overall, their price between the four companies were the lowest. One negative for them is that they are looking to get into the ABIS market and if chosen, South Bend will be the first local police department to go with their company. They are providing ABIS support to the Department of Justice and Homeland Security. They provided references when asked and were very responsive to questions and provided additional follow-up information. They assured me personally that our current equipment (Mobile Units, PIDS, and Smartscans) would work with their ABIS system. Looking at their overall ranking for algorithms in the US, they are currently ranked in first place. I couldn't give them the full points for their system architecture because I have no experience with any of their products. Looking at the cost over the four companies, they were the lowest contract at 1,147,402.74.

I would recommend Athena. Their search algorithms alone put them ahead of every ABIS company in the country. Their relationship with the Department of Justice and Homeland security shows they have experience with law enforcement on a large scale so I would think they could more than handle the ABIS needs of any city in Indiana. They also have the added plus of having the lowest contract price. I hope they reach out when it's time for the Fort Wayne Police Department to start our ABIS search.

Catrice R. Whitlow BS, MS
Manager/Forensic Scientist
Fort Wayne Police Department Laboratory
(260) 427-2075
Catrice.Whitlow@cityoffortwayne.org

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AGENDA ITEM REVIEW REQUEST FORM

Date	July 6 th , 2026		
Name	Sgt. Aaron M. Knepper #2174	Department	SBPD
BPW Date	July 14 th , 2026	Phone Extension	9018

Review and Approval Required Prior to Submittal to Board

Diversity Compliance and Inclusion Officer	☐	Officer Name	_____
BPW Attorney	☒	Attorney Name	Michael Schmidt
Dept. Attorney	☒	Attorney Name	Kylie Connell
Purchasing	☐	_____	

Check the Appropriate Item Type – Required for All Submissions

☐ Professional Services Agreement	☐ Contract	☐ Proposal
☐ Open Market Contract	☐ Amendment/Addendum	☐ Special Purchase, QPA
☐ Bid Opening	☐ Bid Award	☐ Req. to Advertise ☐ Title Sheet
☐ Quote Opening	☐ Quote Award	☐ Reject Bids/Quotes
☐ Proposal Opening	☐ C/O & PCA No. _____	☐ PCA
☐ Chg. Order, No. _____	☐ Traffic Control	☐ Resolution
☒ Other: Accept Proposal		☐ Ease./Encroach

Required Information

Company or Vendor Name	Athena Sciences
New Vendor	☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, Approved by Purchasing ☐ No
MBE/WBE Contractor	☐ MBE ☐ WBE Completed E-Verify Form Attached ☐ Yes ☐ No
Project Name	SBPD ABIS Contract – 2025 to 2036
Project Number	_____
Funding Source	_____
Account No.	_____
Amount	_____
Terms of Contract	TBD – 2026 through 2036
Purpose/Description	<u>The South Bend Police Department is requesting that the Board of Public Works accept the proposal for the “AUTOMATED BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (ABIS) FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND POLICE DEPARTMENT” 2026-2036 contract. Athena Sciences has been selected as the company in which SBPD wishes to negotiate further with; a final contract will be submitted to the Board for approval.</u>

For Change Orders Only

Amount of	☐	Increase	\$	
	☐	Decrease	(\$ _____)	
Previous Amount			\$	
		Increase		%
Current Percent of Change:		Decrease		(_____ %)
New Amount			\$	
		Increase		%
Total Percent of Change:		Decrease		(_____ %)
Time Extension Amount:				