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Division of Design and Construction

University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 758160, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-8160

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kara Axx, Chief Procurement Officer
UA Procurement & Contract Services

THROUGH: Courtney Vermilyea, Contracting Officer
UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Siemens Brand Desigo FireFinder Addressable Fire Alarm System

---

Facilities Services requests extension of the Brand Name Only approval for Siemens Brand Desigo (formerly FireFinder XLS) fire alarm control panel and remote-control console for construction specifications. Siemens recently re-branded the XLS panel to their new Desigo line. UAF's brand name approval for Siemens Brand Desigo panels should be extended to maintain continuity of operations and safe, occupiable buildings.

BACKGROUND: The UAF Emergency Communications Center (ECC) adopted addressable fire alarm technology for most campus buildings in its jurisdiction many years ago. A host server system that monitors over 45 addressable systems across campus was installed in the UAF ECC in the early 1990s and upgraded in 2008. The host system is a Siemens product, called a Network Command Center (NCC), and can monitor Siemens products, including previous MXL and FireFinder products, as well as the newer Design fire alarm panel.

UAF buildings requiring full fire alarm protection are equipped with a central fire alarm panel that monitors all fire alarm devices throughout the building. Addressable devices, such as smoke and heat detectors, transmit their location and alarm status to the panel. The fire alarm panel passes the information to the remote-control console in the building lobby and to the NCC at the Emergency Communications Center. This addressable system provides firefighters with the room location and nature of each alarm at the time of dispatch so they can formulate their initial response and modify their response as more information is received from the system. This single factor directly improves life safety and property conservation on campus: early warning, early evacuation notification, and early notification of first responders.

JUSTIFICATION: Addressable fire alarm systems are the standard of operation for UAF's high-value properties. The following reasons support the use of Desigo as the Brand Name Only product rather than installing a second parallel system:

- The Siemens Network Command Center is only capable of communicating with addressable panels manufactured by Siemens: UAF currently utilizes the Siemens (formerly Cerebus) Pyrotronics MXL, Siemens FireFinder XLS, and Siemens Desigo.

- The parallel system would require the purchase and installation of an additional server and monitor; thus, the first-time cost would become prohibitive.
- Maintenance personnel at Facilities Services are fluent in diagnosing, maintaining, and operating the Siemens systems, whether existing MXL, XLS FireFinder or the new Desigo. We have a more-than-40-year history with Cerebus and Siemens fire alarm systems. Introducing a new brand of system would require extensive training in the operation and maintenance of a second system.
- Similar to the Direct Digital Controls, use of the Siemens product comes with local engineering and maintenance support. This is invaluable when systems need to be repaired or expanded quickly and without jeopardizing life safety.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: Addressable system cost is driven by the level of "smartness" desired by the user: the more sophisticated the organization, management, and messaging of alarms that are required, the more expensive. UAF requires the highest level of alarm delivery with as complete information as possible to relay to the initial dispatch of the fire department.

Because the host server NCC exists or is housed at the central alarm monitoring station, the first-time cost of the Siemens fire alarm systems is reduced by 15-20% over other manufacturers. Further, since UAF has a direct relationship with Siemens' engineers, UAF can reduce the cost of material and labor by customizing the design to UAF's specific needs.

Finally, the labor portion of the installation is bid out on every project. With this portion bid, we are ensuring cost reductions found by bid day competition.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: UAF utilizes the approved cooperative purchasing agreements meeting the public solicitation requirements of BOR Policy P05.06 and AS36.30. Through the cooperative agreements, UAF can select the appropriate vender/installer for the approved Brand Name Only system. Through this Brand Name Only, UAF is requesting narrow specifications to apply only to addressable-type fire alarm systems.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Siemens Brand Addressable Fire Alarm Systems.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6F224631504B41E...
Kara Axx, NIGP-CPP, CPPO

Date of Approval: November 24, 2025

Expiration Date: January 1, 2031

cc: Campus Wide Design Guidelines File
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THROUGH: Courtney Vermilyea, Contracting Officer
UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Aerco Steam to Water Helicoil Hot Water Heater

Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval for Aerco Steam to Water Hot Water Heater (HWH) for construction specifications.

BACKGROUND: Hard water is caused when calcium and magnesium are dissolved by groundwater. Domestic water on the UAF campus has considerably high levels of hardness that cannot be mitigated in the water treatment process. Hardness minerals precipitate out of potable water when it is heated and form scale on heating surfaces inside the equipment. Scale shortens the life of the equipment and increases maintenance and energy costs.

JUSTIFICATION: UAF identified the Aerco HWH many years ago as the only product with the technology to eliminate the scaling problem. The steam used for heating the water is transported in an Aerco helical coil that expands and contracts as the unit operates. This action automatically descales the heating surfaces. The Aerco HWH is extremely reliable. UAF has a few units that were installed nearly 50 years ago and the M&R costs have been very low.

The most common alternative to an Aerco unit is a common steam-fired Shell and Tube HWH. The purchase and installation cost of a Shell & Tube HWH is approximately $11,500 compared to the current average cost of $35,000 for an Aerco. Over the 50-year life of both products, repairs to an Aerco HWH will cost $2,500, while the maintenance costs for a Shell & Tube HWH in domestic water service will be $100,000. The high cost of Shell & Tube HWH is attributed to the need to replace the tube bundle every two years because of scaling.

Aerco supplies parts and replacement material on a regular basis to UAF and the Facilities Services maintenance staff are well trained to maintain the heaters well beyond the normal life-cycles of other water heaters.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: According to our research, there are no other manufacturers that can meet the unique ability of the Aerco unit, especially given the operating conditions of UAF's water. With no equivalent, it is difficult to attempt to prove the price reasonableness of the units. An alternate design would need to be employed at a high long-term maintenance and operating expense to provide the same hot water.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Aerco Steam to Water Helicoil Hot Water Heater.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6F224631504B41E...
Kara Axx, NIGP-CPP, CPPO

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Kara Axx, Chief Procurement Officer
UA Procurement & Contract Services

THROUGH: Courtney Vermilyea, Contracting Officer DS
UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director DS
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Badger Meters for Condensate and Water

Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval for Badger Meters for Condensate and Water for construction specifications.

BACKGROUND: The Division of Utilities has established a network of meters that collect data on heat and water use in all buildings on the Fairbanks Campus. UAF meters all of its buildings to monitor energy and water use, for billing purposes, and to satisfy state and federal regulatory agencies. Current metering measures domestic water use and condensate created when steam from the power plant heats a building's glycol system via a heat exchanger. Measuring the condensate is the most reliable means of metering heat use.

JUSTIFICATION: FS Utilities has previously received Brand Name Only approval for Badger meters and has been using them for nearly 40 years, with over 125 meters installed across campus. These meters were first used because they were the only brand that could stand up to the water quality on campus. The meters provide a consistent, reliable service, and FS utility has sufficient spare material to repair and replace these materials with little to no downtime. Introducing a second or third brand would require additional training and spare material, which is not cost-efficient for metering components.

The meters are compatible with the Brand Name Only Square D POWERLOGIC metering system, able to send the correct type of pulse data to the existing and extensive metering system. Alternate manufacturers can provide meters, but must provide for a two-way integration between their data and the POWERLOGIC software used by UAF. Several factors discourage the use of alternative manufacturers.

- Each alternate manufacturer must provide, at their cost, suitable gateways or Ethernet communication modules to translate data and instructions between the POWERLOGIC analysis software.
- Gateways or Ethernet communication modules may not be supported by their original provider in the future.
- There are many opportunities for data or instructions to be corrupted in the translation process.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: The meters are generally more expensive than commodity-level meters but offer more reliability and are compatible with UAF's existing metering system. Other commodity-level meters would require a costly converter to talk to the Square D metering head-end system.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Badger Meters for Condensate and Water.

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UA Procurement & Contract Services

THROUGH: Courtney Vermilyea, Contracting Officer
UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Door Hardware including Cylinders, Exit Devices, Door Closers, and Locksets

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Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval for the following door hardware, including cylinders, exit devices, door closers, and locksets for construction specifications:

- Exit Devices – Von Duprin (Basis of Design) and Precision Hardware
- Door Closers – LCN (Basis of Design) and Stanley Hardware (Best)
- Cylindrical and Mortise Locksets (manual) – Best (Domakaba) and Schlage
- Electronic Hardwired Locksets – Stanley Hardware (Best) or Schlage
- Electronic Wireless Lockset – Schlage AD-400
- Cylinders – Best Cormax SFIC keying system
- Door Operators – LCN

BACKGROUND: In 1994, UAF established a keying system that limited manufacturers to two, thus reducing the number of keyways on campus and enhancing a more secure key management system. In 2022, UAF replaced this system with a single manufacturer approach following industry best practices for securing spaces in post-secondary education buildings. Effective key management is vital for life safety and property protection, especially in a higher education institution. Currently, Best Cormax is the approved brand name-only keying system on campus.

Additional narrowing of specified door hardware manufacturers was provided in the 1996 UAF Design Standards, and renewed in the last two Brand Name Only requests. Exit devices, door closers, and door operators require continuous maintenance due to the high volume of operations experienced daily. Further, electronic locksets were narrowed to ensure compatibility with the UAF card access system, which has been fully built out over the last 10 years to provide robust sectary to campus.

JUSTIFICATION: As mentioned in the background, UAF limited keying to one manufacturer in 2022. When it did so, it limited the manufacturers of the locksets that can be used on the campus doors. Best and Schlage locksets are highly reliable commercial locksets that UAF stocks and is highly trained to repair on an “immediate” or emergency type basis. Best and Schlage have a wide-ranging diversity in their keyways and can accommodate the size of UAF’s door inventory. They can also be keyed to the Cormax small-format interchangeable key system.

For door closers and exit devices, two manufacturers are also listed. The manufacturers listed provide the most reliable products with the ability to have over 2,000,000 cycles before needing major rebuilding. Exit devices and door closers are door hardware products that are strictly specified and built to the International Fire Code requirements. Door exit devices are used because they are easily pushed through from the inside while still providing high security from the outside. Closers are used to automatically close doors to prevent the spread of fire and smoke. These hardware pieces are also one of the most utilized (cycled) pieces of hardware in a building, as every person coming or going through an exterior exit or fire door, such as in a hallway, will open and close the door tens of thousands of times in the course of a building's life. UAF FS Maintenance is highly skilled and trained in the repair of these manufacturers and carries a vast array of spare parts. Fixing an exit door is a matter of life safety, and if it cannot be fixed, it could mean the closure of an entire facility. Limiting the manufacturers allows for rapid repair and replacement.

The only true Brand Name Only items are:

- Wireless Locksets, of which UAF has yet to find a competitor that is compatible with the Lenel security system and reliable enough for UAF's security needs.
- Door Operators, of which UAF has not found a responsive and responsible locally trained service center or alternate manufacturer willing to train UAF FS Maintenance and maintain a readily available stock of spare parts. When door operators are not functional, access to the building by people with disabilities is limited or restricted.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: Introducing a third manufacturer to the door hardware standards could cause excessive startup costs both at the capital project level and the maintenance level. In addition, it would require introducing a third keyway manufacturer into the UAF keying system, fracturing a well-established security system. Finally, a third manufacturer would have to have the ability to accept UAF's Cormax keying system and UAF has not identified a reliable institutional lock manufacturer that accepts the keying system.

The price for these components is kept in check by the competition. Their prices are reasonable for the quality and reliability, maintainability, and longevity.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. UAF routinely works with four to five vendors in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, thus ensuring competition and fair pricing. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Door Hardware, including Cylinders, Exit Devices, Door Closers, and Locksets.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6F224631504B41E...
Kara Axx, NIGP-CPP, CPPO

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MEMORANDUM

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UA Procurement & Contract Services

THROUGH: Courtney Vermilyea, Contracting Officer DS
UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director DS
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Two Brand Names Only Request
Propylene Glycol Solution Inhibitor Concentrate

Facilities Services requests Two Brand Names Only approval for glycol inhibitor for construction specifications.

BACKGROUND: Facilities Services has used a mixture of virgin propylene glycol, purified water, and NALCO 2837 inhibitor concentrate as the standard hydronic heating solution in our Fairbanks campus buildings for over 35 years. This custom mixing method allows us to maintain control over the quality of the heating system fluid. It would cost about 30% more to bring in a premixed solution as purified water is a component of the mix.

Heat transfer fluid inhibitors impede the development of corrosion by protecting the metal piping surfaces with a thin layer of molecules and using buffers to absorb acids formed by oxidation of the glycol/water solution.

Careful control of the inhibitors will extend the life of the solution and the piping for many years. UAF staff can test and adjust the inhibitor levels in the field. Factory-inhibited glycols require time-consuming and costly factory testing.

JUSTIFICATION: NALCO 2837 is a molybdate-based inhibitor. A survey of Alaska distributors identifies Arctic Therm 1015 inhibitor concentrate as the only molybdate-based inhibitor that is comparable to NALCO 2837. Division of Maintenance requests that these products be approved as Two-Brand Name Only for use as inhibitors for our propylene glycol solution systems.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: Molybdate-based inhibitors are the standard for our propylene glycol/water hydronic heating systems. Allowing any other propylene glycol/water solutions will jeopardize the integrity of the heating system by contaminating an existing molybdate-based system or introducing alternate methods and confusion in the maintenance program. This could lead to more frequent glycol change-out or pipe system corrosion and failure.

An analysis was conducted to determine the cost/SF to replace hydronic heating systems on the UAF campus. In 2020, the hydronic system in an 18,492 SF campus building was drained, flushed, refilled, and treated at a cost of $7,450, resulting in a unit cost of $0.40/SF.

Using this information projected on the balance of the campus buildings with glycol heating, the labor and materials cost to replace the hydronic heating solution in one average-sized building is about $25,000.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered Single Source procurement. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires Contractors who bid on the project to factor into their bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Two Brand Names Only request for NALCO 2837 and Arctic Therm 1015 propylene glycol inhibitors.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6F22463150 4B41E... _____
Kara Axx, NIGP-CPP, CPPO

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UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director DS
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Knox-Box Rapid Entry System Including Key Boxes and Shunt Trips

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Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval for equipment to support the Knox-Box Rapid Entry System for use in construction specifications.

BACKGROUND: Most nationwide emergency service jurisdictions utilize a property key storage system that provides emergency responders with quick and reliable access to some public and private properties in their jurisdiction.

The most widely used key security product for this application is provided by the Knox Company. Their master key security system provides accountability and audit trails for keys that secure the Knox-Box key storage units, fire hydrants, and narcotic drug lockers. Property owners purchase the Knox-Box, mount it in an accessible location, and lock their keys inside. The Knox-Box is then registered with the local emergency services provider so that their property can be quickly and safely accessed to reduce response times, property damage, and liabilities.

Recently, UAF expanded its use of the Knox rapid entry system to include Knox Key-operated Shunt Trips for Building Power. By using a single key, the fire department can quickly disconnect building power and gain access into the facility.

JUSTIFICATION: University Fire Department and Fairbanks Fire Departments use the Knox-Box Rapid Entry System exclusively. These emergency service providers respond to UAF facilities on campus, in the borough, and in the City of Fairbanks. Implementation of a parallel system would need approval from the Authority Having Jurisdiction, the University Fire Department, and the Fairbanks Fire Department. Either of the entities may choose not to participate in the parallel system management.

Nearly every Troth Yeddha' Campus facility has a Knox-Box system currently. Retaining the Knox Brand Name Only ensures compatibility with existing equipment and replacement parts, which is paramount when making repairs to a rapid entry system.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: To our knowledge, the Knox-Box Rapid Entry System is the only product available that provides this level of secure access. Knox-Box system components for property owners cost less than $1,200. If a parallel competitive system were implemented, it would have a detrimental effect on the current secure access program managed by the emergency services responsible for our facilities.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Knox-Box Rapid Entry System, Including Key Boxes and Shunt Trips.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6E224631504B41E...
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THROUGH: Courtney Vermilyea, Contracting Officer DS
UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director DS
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Lenel Security and Access Systems

Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval for Lenel Access Control System for construction specifications.

BACKGROUND: The Lenel system was chosen as the access control system for the Akasofu Building in 1999 in a competitive selection process. UAF implemented the AT&T Blackboard access system in parallel with Lenel during the Duckering Building deferred maintenance project in 1997. The 2001 Rasmuson Library deferred maintenance project required security features that AT&T Blackboard could not provide. As a result, Facilities Services designated Lenel as the University's sole integrated access control and building security system, capable of fulfilling all operational, security, and integration requirements.

Integrated systems use one door-mounted device to provide both access control and building security functions. Non-integrated control systems provide one or the other, but not both functions. A non-integrated system would require a second door-mounted device adjacent to a Lenel device to provide the missing functionality.

All access control systems interface with UA Banner system to create profiles of faculty, staff, and students. Profiles for non-affiliated users are created by the Facilities Services (FS) staff. FS staff manages UA user profiles. Some campus departments manage their own profiles through a Lenel interface. In recent years, due to key security issues, the UAF Administration has created policies and procedures that have proliferated the use of electronic locksets, increasing the number of Lenel-based access control systems and doors from fewer than 100 to over 1000 (20% of all campus doors).

JUSTIFICATION: UAF Police Department and the UAF FS/Lock Shop require integration of the campus access control and building security systems through a single manufacturer. Implementing more than one manufacturer has many disadvantages:

- Non-integrated systems would require additional door-mounted hardware, building panels, and signal wiring.

- Each parallel system would require a separate server, software, licensing, Banner database interface, and staff training.
- Each parallel system would use separate computers and monitors to display alarm screens requiring additional desk space at each managing agency, including UAF Emergency Communications Center.
- Each manufacturer would require a separate profile database for management by all users of the system. Mistakes are more common when more than one database needs to be changed.
- The selection of a second manufacturer might lead to an expansion of parallel systems. Requirements for periodic manufacturer solicitations or vendor support issues could expand the number of active manufacturers beyond a minimum of two.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: The Lenel product, at the building level, is comparable to competitors, including Siemens and Johnson Controls. However, to install a parallel system on campus would require a large first-time output between $60,000 and $100,000 plus programming. A parallel system would need to work in the parameters of other systems already established on campus, including Banner, AssetWorks (AiM), and the Facilities Services SimpleK key management system. This would be an additional cost to the University.

Annual operation and maintenance costs for a parallel system are itemized at $33,000. This includes maintenance of server hardware and operating system, maintaining Banner cardholder importation, and labor to maintaining a second software application. The extra costs for training and staff costs for duplicate efforts are not available at this time.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. Lenel products are available from multiple vendors in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. The award is not being limited to a single Contractor; it is only requiring the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Lenel Security and Access Systems.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6F224631504B41E... _____
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FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Dowfrost or Dowfrost HD for Remote/Rural Campuses Only

Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval for Dowfrost or Dowfrost HD for construction specifications for installation at rural or remote campus facilities.

BACKGROUND: Facilities Services, Division of Maintenance specifies a pre-mixed, factory-inhibited propylene glycol solution for use in heating systems at University properties outside of Fairbanks. Each glycol manufacturer uses a proprietary inhibitor chemical package. Inhibitors are a mixture of chemicals designed to prevent corrosion, scaling, and fouling of closed-loop hydronic systems.

Hydronic solutions are tested and adjusted periodically to make sure the freeze protection and inhibitor levels are within acceptable ranges. The chemical levels in factory-inhibited solutions can only be tested by the manufacturer. Pre-mixed, factory-inhibited solutions from different manufacturers cannot be mixed because the chemical profiles used for testing will be destroyed.

JUSTIFICATION: Designating the use of only one product will help UAF manage the integrity of glycol solutions at these sites. This only applies to systems that currently have Dowfrost or Dowfrost HD, new construction, or when systems currently using other products are replaced.

Maintaining a single brand of glycol at rural and remote campus facilities ensures compatible products are being added to existing systems. Mixing products from different manufacturers into a pure system eliminates our ability to test and adjust inhibitors. The only way to remedy the contaminated solution is to completely drain and clean the system and then refill with a new product at a cost of up to $15,000.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: The Dowfrost product is more expensive than purchasing virgin glycol. However, purchasing virgin glycol (used in systems on the Troth Yeddha' campus) requires purchasing additional deionized water, dyes, and inhibitors to be mixed on site. Deionized water is typically not available in rural settings and must be shipped in, thus increasing the overall cost to install glycol in the building. It is impractical from a cost standpoint to mix glycol at rural campus facilities.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Dowfrost or Dowfrost HD for Remote/Rural Campuses Only.

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UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director DS
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
G&W Electric SF6 Switches

Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval of G&W Electric SF6 switches for construction specifications.

BACKGROUND: The high-voltage electric power distribution system on the UAF Troth Yeddha' campus uses industrial-sized, pad-mounted equipment to provide load and fault interruption switching. These switches use a non-toxic, non-flammable gas known as SF6 as an insulator inside a sealed, pressurized vessel.

This equipment is installed at strategic locations in the utilidor system to allow utility managers to efficiently route power to campus facilities. Operating and repairing switches in a quick and safe manner is vital to keeping UAF buildings energized with minimal outage durations.

JUSTIFICATION: UAF requires the installation of G&W SF6 switches in all applications. Our research shows that this is the only manufacturer that provides the compact and limited access configurations typically encountered in our utilidors. Facilities Services Utilities exclusive uses G&W SF6 switches and has a ready supply of spare parts and institutional knowledge to make repairs safely and quickly.

The use of G&W SF6 switches provides a level of confidence to utility operators because they are extremely familiar with operating the equipment and have a large supply of spare parts. This equipment offers the best chance for operators to restore power quickly after an unscheduled outage.

Even if an alternate product were available, the potential cost to UAF would be an increase in the duration of power outages. Repair crews would lack familiarity with the equipment and would not have immediate access to spare parts. It could take several weeks to procure repair parts for an alternate brand after an unscheduled outage.

Extended outages negatively impact campus research activities. There are nearly 500 walk-in and portable freezers actively used on campus, which provide storage conditions for vital research contents in the proper temperature ranges. As soon as power is lost, the units begin a slow but steady temperature increase to room temperature. Restoring power at the earliest possible moment is the only way to minimize the loss of specimens upon which years of research depend.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: In our research, the G&W brand of switches is in the same price point as other isolation switch gear yet yields better performance in the small sizes.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for G&W Electric SF6 Switches.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6F224631504B41E...
Kara Axx, NIGP-CPP, CPPO

Date of Approval: November 24, 2025

Expiration Date: January 1, 2031

cc: Campus Wide Design Guidelines File
C. Wohlford

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Division of Design and Construction

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Kara Axx, Chief Procurement Officer
UA Procurement & Contract Services

THROUGH: Courtney Vermilyea, Contracting Officer DS
UAF Design and Construction

FROM: Cameron Wohlford, Director DS
UAF Design and Construction

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Brand Name Only Request
Square D POWERLOGIC Power Monitoring and Control System

Facilities Services requests Brand Name Only approval for Square D POWERLOGIC Power Monitoring and Control System for construction specifications.

BACKGROUND: Division of Utilities has established a network of power monitoring and control equipment in campus buildings that collects and transmits electrical consumption data in a high-speed campus communications network. The POWERLOGIC software then gathers and organizes the data in useful formats so that managers can monitor and analyze consumption and take action through manual or automated means.

JUSTIFICATION: UAF needs to use Square D POWERLOGIC meters, circuit monitors, analytical software, and other Square D devices exclusively to guarantee that all data collected and transmitted will be accurate and actionable without conflicts.

Several factors discourage the use of alternative manufacturers:

- Each alternate manufacturer must provide, at their cost, suitable gateways or Ethernet communication modules to translate data and instructions between the POWERLOGIC analysis software.
- Gateways or Ethernet communication modules may not be supported by their original provider in the future.
- There are many opportunities for data or instructions to be corrupted in the translation process.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: The historical use of Square D POWERLOGIC Power Monitoring and Control System has not resulted in adverse costs for UAF. Square D is a long-established manufacturer that has provided proven technology and equipment for decades. During the Butrovich Data Center upgrades project, UAF had the CM@Risk bid two power monitoring systems. Square D was comparable in price to the other manufacturer, Eaton, without requiring a replacement of the main metering system receivers and processors.

The alternate manufacturer estimated their cost to integrate to the POWERLOGIC software at $75,000 for a recent construction bid. The cost of data corruption or errors caused by alternate-manufacturer-installed gateways or Ethernet communication modules are difficult to estimate but could be significant and would affect billing.

This Brand Name Only applies to utility, revenue grade, metering only. Metering for other purposes, such as load management in the data center or branch circuit monitoring in a lab building, is not part of this request.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION: Though this Brand Name Only specification may appear to restrict competition to a single source, the purchase and placement is not considered a Single Source procurement. The award is not limited to a single Contractor; it only requires the Contractor to factor into the bid a brand of material that the University has found acceptable.

Based on the aforementioned facts, it is in the University's Best Interest to approve the Brand Name Only request for Square D POWERLOGIC Power Monitoring and Control System.

REQUEST APPROVED: DocuSigned by: 6F224631504B41E...
Kara Axx, NIGP-CPP, CPPO

Date of Approval: November 24, 2025

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C. Wohlford