




CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Tourism and Culture Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 23, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site Single Sourcing (PED22050) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	John Summers (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1234
SUBMITTED BY:	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That staff be directed to award a sole-source, five-year contract to ASI Group (Marine) Ltd. for the maintenance, monitoring and upgrade of radar surveillance of an exclusion zone around the Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site shipwreck location at a cost not to exceed \$350,000 over the life of the contract, to be funded from 720600-56202.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site is an underwater archaeological site owned by the City of Hamilton. The site is one of just two shipwreck sites in Ontario which are Provincially designated as underwater archaeological sites and are off limits to researchers and sport divers without an archaeological license granted by the Marine Licensing Officer, Archaeology Program Unit of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.

As owner of the ships, the City of Hamilton is responsible for their security. Radar surveillance is necessary to prevent public access to the wrecks. In previous years, this surveillance has been provided through a sole-source contract with ASI Group (Marine) Ltd. at an annual cost of \$59,551. As the \$250,000 limit for sole-source contracts has been exceeded, a survey of potential alternate vendors for this service was undertaken in late 2021, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED22050. The survey revealed no

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

other vendors beyond ASI Group (Marine) Ltd. capable of providing an equivalent combination of high-quality radar technology, a radar tower with a direct line of sight to the protected zone and full-time marine monitoring and project management staff.

Alternatives for Consideration - Not Applicable

FINANCIAL - STAFFING - LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Funding is available in the existing Operating Budget.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site is an underwater archaeological site owned by the City of Hamilton, located 12 kilometres offshore from St. Catharines in Lake Ontario. The American ships Hamilton and Scourge sank during the War of 1812, resulting in the greatest loss of life on the Great Lakes during that conflict. The ships became a National Historic Site of Canada in 1976. Since 1980, ownership and stewardship has been the responsibility of the City of Hamilton. The Hamilton and Scourge site and the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald are the only two shipwreck sites in Ontario which are Provincially designated underwater archaeological sites and are off limits to researchers and sport divers without an archaeological license granted by the Marine Licensing Officer, Archaeology Program Unit of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. As owner of the ships, the City of Hamilton is responsible for their security. Radar surveillance is necessary to prevent public access to the wrecks.

ASI Group (Marine) Ltd. have maintained and monitored surveillance of the ships for more than 10 years. They employ a custom-built tower on the shore of Lake Ontario at a location which has the closest direct line of sight to the protected zone where the ships lie. ASI Group (Marine) Ltd. licenses Accipiter Radar Technologies hardware and software which is not commercially available. The licensed software system uses algorithms which differentiate vessels based upon movements, speed, trajectory and sends automated emails to ASI Group (Marine) Ltd. staff, the Niagara Regional Police Service Marine Unit, and City of Hamilton staff only when specific activity is detected, not simply any vessel entering the zone. In 2016 to 2018, the City of Hamilton invested funds in the location of the custom-built tower and in the preparation of the site pad for its installation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The site is a Provincially designated underwater archaeological site, accessible only to those with an archaeological license granted by the Marine Licensing Officer, Archaeology Program Unit of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. As owner of the site, the City of Hamilton is responsible to secure it from unlawful access.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Internal

- Financial Assistant II, Financial Planning Administration and Policy, Corporate Services Department
- Procurement Specialist - Financial Services Division - Corporate Services Department
- Senior Procurement Specialist, Financial Services and Taxation, Corporate Services Department
- Procurement Analyst, Financial Services and Taxation, Corporate Services Department

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Annual Procurement Policy #11 - Non-Competitive Procurements requests have previously been used to secure the funding necessary to fulfill the obligation to secure the site. As the \$250,000 limit for sole-source contracts has been exceeded, a survey of potential alternate vendors for this service was undertaken in late 2021, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED22050. The survey revealed no other vendors beyond ASI Group (Marine) Ltd. capable of providing the required combination of high-quality hardware and software radar technology, with an optimally-located existing radar tower and full-time marine monitoring and project management staff.

As there is only one vendor who is able to meet the requirements of a multi-year sole-source contract, it is being recommended as the most effective way to maintain the security and integrity of these historic resources to the level required. The not-to-exceed cost of \$350,000 allows for equipment lifecycle maintenance and repairs beyond the annual cost of services provided.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 - 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" - Survey of Possible Alternate Vendors

JS:ac