



Finance and Administrative Services Department

PURCHASING DIVISION

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-6066 • FAX 954-357-8535

April 24, 2026

Ricky Ibarra, Owner
Los Pasos, LLC d/b/a Batteries Plus, LLC
6400 South Dixie Hwy.
Miami, FL 33143

Re: Protest to Recommendation for Award – Invitation to Bid No. TRN2130464B2, Bus Batteries (FTA)

Dear Mr. Ibarra:

Broward County Purchasing Division (“Purchasing”) is in receipt of a timely protest received on March 20, 2026, from Los Pasos, LLC d/b/a Batteries Plus, LLC (Batteries Plus), protesting the Recommendation for Award for Bid No. TRN2130464B2 - Bus Batteries (FTA) (**Exhibit 1**). The required protest filing fee of \$3,000 was received.

After careful review of the protest assertions, the solicitation requirements, and the Broward County Procurement Code, the protest is respectfully denied. The determination that Batteries Plus’ bid was nonresponsive was made in compliance with the solicitation and Procurement Code.

The following reflects a summary of the assertions made in Batteries Plus’ protest letter. All assertions are evaluated as presented in the protest and are considered solely within the context of the procurement record for Bid No. TRN2130464B2. Purchasing incorporates the protest by reference in its entirety and confirms that it has reviewed all matters asserted therein.

Batteries Plus Assertion Summary No. 1:

Batteries Plus asserts that “the solicitation’s Specifications and Requirements do not require prior experience specifically within the “bus battery industry” as a condition of responsiveness or responsibility” and “the County’s reliance on this factor constitutes the application of an unstated evaluation criterion, which is inconsistent with fundamental procurement principles requiring that all evaluation factors be disclosed in advance”.

County’s Response to Assertion No. 1

The solicitation’s Vendor Questionnaire, Quotation and Invitation to Bid, Question 31, required bidders to provide “at least three individuals, corporations, agencies, or institutions” for which Vendor has provided similar type of services or commodities in the past three years. The commodities required by the solicitation are bus batteries. Batteries Plus did not provide references for bus batteries. Instead, it provided references only for maintenance batteries, APC battery replacement, and hotel lighting and accessories (**Exhibit 2**).

Ricky Ibarra, Owner, Los Pasos, LLC d/b/a Batteries Plus, LLC
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Additionally, on January 12, 2026, the County specifically asked Batteries Plus to provide three transit references that are similar in scope and annual value (approximately \$370,000) to the commodity being bid. In response to this request, on January 13, 2026 (**Exhibit 3**), Batteries Plus stated “We unfortunately do not have a Transit specific bid reflecting something comparable to bus batteries....I guess we have to start somewhere”. Based on the information provided by the vendor, the County determined that the vendor did not sufficiently demonstrate the experience or capabilities required by the solicitation.

In addition, the Broward County Transportation Department (BCT) visited Battery Plus’ facility located at 1551 E Commercial Blvd Fort Lauderdale FL 33334 (“storefront location”) on January 19, 2026. The purpose of the visit was to inspect the vendor’s facilities and to determine the vendor’s ability to perform in accordance with the solicitation’s specifications, terms and conditions. BCT determined that the storefront location is approximately “2,000 square feet with 1,000 square feet dedicated to retail and the other 1,000 square feet for warehousing, which is not adequate space to hold the vendor’s current battery storage plus the batteries required by the solicitation. (**Exhibit 4**).

Based on the foregoing, the County determined that Batteries Plus lacked the relevant experience, capacity, and past performance to demonstrate responsibility.

Accordingly, Assertion No. 1 is denied.

Batteries Plus Assertion Summary No. 2

Batteries Plus asserts that prior to bid evaluation, the County reviewed and approved Batteries Plus proposed product (East Penn/Deka 908DFT) as an acceptable equivalent that proves that the product met or exceeds all technical specifications and was deemed suitable for the County’s operational needs.

County’s Response to Assertion No. 2

In accordance with the solicitation, Section 21 (“Or Equal Clause”) of the General Conditions, an “Approved Equal” is intended solely to establish whether a proposed product meets the technical specifications required by the solicitation. While the County may determine that a product is acceptable as an “Approved Equal,” such determination is limited to product equivalency and not to an assessment of the vendor’s responsibility, qualifications, or capacity to perform the contract. Accordingly, the approval of a product as an “Approved Equal” does not prevent the County from independently evaluating the vendor’s responsibility; nor does it prohibit the County from rejecting a vendor based on factors related to capacity, capability or overall responsibility.

Accordingly, Assertion No. 2 is denied.

Batteries Plus Assertion Summary No. 3

Batteries Plus asserts that the County’s determination that Batteries Plus is nonresponsible is an unsupported and speculative determination as Batteries Plus supply chain and distribution model are fully capable of meeting the requirements of the solicitation.

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County's Response to Assertion No. 3

The vendor's response to the solicitation failed to demonstrate sufficient distribution capacity and logistical capability to reliably meet the fluctuating and time sensitive demands for transit bus batteries required by the solicitation.

The vendor subsequently submitted letters dated March 24, 2026, from East Penn Manufacturing and Ascent Battery Supply (a subsidiary of Batteries Plus) (**Exhibit 5**). The letters purport to show that Batteries Plus has sufficient distribution and logistical capacity to meet the requirements of the solicitation. As an initial matter, these letters are not proper for consideration in a protest because Batteries Plus was required to submit material related to their capacity and capabilities with their submissions. A vendor's responsibility is determined during the evaluation process, not in a protest.

However, even assuming such letters were appropriate for consideration, the letter from East Penn Manufacturing (East Penn) (**Exhibit 5**), states only that it will make "reasonable efforts" to supply the bus batteries required, provided that it receives monthly forecasts of what is needed, in which case it "will work to keep the right inventory on hand." The letter also states that if orders exceed the forecasts, it would need two weeks' notice, and if such notice is not provided it may not be able to provide the batteries required. Moreover, East Penn states that "Batteries Plus will remain the direct supplier ... and this letter simply confirms our ability to support Batteries Plus when provided with the appropriate information." Beyond the fact that East Penn cannot guarantee the availability of batteries, the solicitation (Special Instructions to Vendors, Section G (Vendor Responsibilities) (**Exhibit 6**) requires the vendor itself to deliver 100% of the goods required without subcontracting or other forms of outsourcing. The letter from Ascent Battery, meanwhile, provides no specific guarantees that Batteries Plus will be able to meet the solicitation's delivery requirements. Notably, the letter references working with East Penn Manufacturing to facilitate supply. The letter references other "manufacturing partners," but does not identify them or what specific guarantees they could provide. As a result, the vendor cannot rely on the purported capability of East Penn and Ascent Battery to meet the solicitation's requirements. Additionally, the vendor's warehouse is in Wisconsin, with its distributor based in Pennsylvania, which introduces additional logistics complexity and increased lead time from order placement to delivery.

Accordingly, Assertion No. 3 is denied.

Batteries Plus Assertion Summary No. 4

Batteries Plus asserts that the County's determination that Batteries Plus lacks relevant experience and operational capability is directly contradicted by verifiable facts in the vendor references and history that indicated Batteries Plus currently supports multiple major public transit systems, including but not limited to:

- City of Orlando
- Denver Regional Transportation District (RTA)
- New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTS)
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

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County’s Response to Assertion No. 4

On January 12, 2026, the County requested the vendor to provide three transit references that are similar in scope and annual value (approximately \$370,000) to the commodity being bid. Batteries Plus responded in an email dated January 13, 2026 (**Exhibit 3**), stating “they do not have a transit-specific bid comparable to Bus Batteries and that they have to start somewhere.” “Other Batteries Plus franchises have been awarded transit battery contracts, but not this specific franchise.”

Subsequently, as part of the protest letter, dated March 24, 2026, Batteries Plus listed four public transits systems in which Batteries Plus supported, however, there is no documentation provided detailing the capacity of the “support” and/or relevance to the Bid No. TRN2130464B2 Los Pasos d/b/a Batteries Plus. More importantly, these entities were not provided as part of the solicitation response or in response to the County’s January 12, 2026, request. The responsibility of vendors is determined during the evaluation process, not during a protest.

The Broward County Transportation Department determined that Batteries Plus does not currently operate within the bus battery industry and has no past performance specific to this market. While the vendor has expressed an interest in entering the bus battery sector, intent alone does not meet the technical, safety, and reliability requirements necessary for this procurement. Given the critical nature of bus battery systems and the associated operational risks, the County determined the evidence of ability to perform was not satisfactory.

Accordingly, Assertion No. 4 is denied.

Batteries Plus Assertion Summary No. 5

Batteries Plus asserts that the County did not provide an opportunity to address or clarify any perceived concerns related to its experience or logistic capabilities prior to being deemed nonresponsible.

County’s Response to Assertion No. 5

Batteries Plus was provided with multiple opportunities to address the County’s concerns. The County sent questionnaires stating its concerns by email to Batteries Plus on December 10, 2025, December 29, 2025, December 31, 2025, January 5, 2026, January 6, 2026, January 8, 2026, January 9, 2026, January 12, 2026, January 14, 2026. In addition, a site visit was conducted on January 19, 2026, to the vendor’s facility to determine the vendor’s ability to meet the solicitation’s requirements.

Accordingly, Assertion No. 5 is denied.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, upon careful consideration of all protest assertions for Recommendation for Award, and in consultation with the Office of the County Attorney, the protest filed by Batteries Plus is hereby denied. The Recommendation for Award for Bid No. TRN2130464B2 Bus Batteries (FTA) remains as indicated.

This decision is in compliance with the Procurement Code and Broward County Code of Ordinances.

Ricky Ibarra, Owner, Los Pasos d/b/a Batteries Plus
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For your information, in accordance with Broward County Procurement Code, Section 21.72, a protester may appeal the Director of Purchasing's protest denial. A written appeal must be accompanied by an original appeal bond (attachment) and received by the Director of Purchasing within ten (10) days after the date of this determination. Please refer to Part XII of the Procurement Code for additional details and requirements.

For ease of reference, a list of exhibits referenced in this determination is provided below:

Exhibits

- Exhibit 1 - Batteries Plus Protest Letter received March 20, 2026
- Exhibit 2 - Batteries Plus Vendor Questionnaire
- Exhibit 3 - Batteries Plus Email Correspondence dated January 13, 2026
- Exhibit 4 - Nonconurrence Memorandum dated February 26, 2026
- Exhibit 5 - East Penn Manufacturing and Ascent Letters dated March 24, 2026
- Exhibit 6 - Special Instructions to Vendors, Section G (Vendor Responsibilities)

Respectfully,

**Robert
Gleason**

Digitally signed by
Robert Gleason
Date: 2026.04.24
12:26:32 -04'00'

Robert E. Gleason, Director
Purchasing Division

Attachments

REG/sl/sr/sl/lg

- c: Coree Cuff Lonergan, Director, Transportation Department
Walterio Castillo, Material Manager, Transportation Department
Connie Mangan, Assistant Director, Purchasing Division
Sonia M. Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, Purchasing Division
Stacie-Ann Richards, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Division
Benjamin Salzillo, Senior Assistant County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney
Javier Navas, Assistant County Attorney, Office of County Attorney

BROWARD COUNTY

PROCUREMENT PROTEST APPEAL BOND

Bond Number: _____

Contract Number: _____

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, _____ a (mark one) corporation, partnership, proprietorship, organized and existing under the laws of the State of _____, and having its principal place of business at _____, as **PRINCIPAL**; and _____, a surety company, organized under the laws of the State of _____, duly authorized to do business in the State of Florida, whose principal place of business is _____, as **SURETY**, are held and firmly bound unto BROWARD COUNTY, as **OBLIGEE**, in an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the estimated contract amount [as defined in Subsection 21.84(a) of the Broward County Procurement Code] or \$10,000, whichever is less; except that if the estimated contract amount is less than \$250,000, the bond amount shall be \$2,500. The bond shall be conditioned upon payment of all costs and fees awarded to the County pursuant to subsection 21.88(e) of the Broward County Procurement Code, for the payment of which sum we, as Principal and Surety, bind ourselves, our heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns, jointly and severally.

THIS BOND is issued to comply with Section 21.88 of the Broward County Procurement Code. The above-named Principal has initiated an appeal of the Purchasing Director's determination on Principal's administrative protest regarding the Obligee's decision or intended decision pertaining to (mark one) Bid, RLI, RFP other solicitation, Number _____ submitted by _____. Said appeal is conditioned upon the posting of the bond at the time of filing the formal written request for hearing before a hearing officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, the condition of this Bond is that if the hearing officer denies the appeal, the Principal shall pay all costs and fees awarded to the County pursuant to subsection 21.88(e) of the Broward County Procurement Code, then the obligation shall be null and void; otherwise it shall remain in full force and effect

The Obligee may bring an action to a court of competent jurisdiction on this bond for the amount of such liability, including all costs and attorneys' fees.

PRINCIPAL: _____

BY: _____

(Print name and title)

ATTEST: _____

(CORPORATE SEAL)

(Print name and title)

(CORPORATE SEAL)

SURETY: _____

BY: _____

(Print name and title)

Florida Resident Agent _____

(Note: Power of Attorney showing authority of Surety's agent or Attorney in Fact must be attached).

RE: Formal Protest-Bid No. TRN2130464B2 (Bus Batteries-FTA)

Dear Ms. Richards,

FORMAL PROTEST

On behalf of Los Pasos, LLC d/b/a Batteries Plus, LLC (“Batteries Plus”), this letter constitutes a formal protest of the Recommendation for Award issued in connection with Bid No. **TRN2130464B2 - Bus Batteries (FTA)**.

This protest is timely submitted in accordance with the Broward County Procurement Code and the Summary of Vendor Rights.

I. Basis of Protest

Batteries Plus respectfully protests the determination that its bid is “non-responsible.” This determination is arbitrary, unsupported by the solicitation requirements, inconsistent with the County’s prior actions during the procurement process, and based on speculative concerns rather than objective evidence.

II. Grounds for Protest

1. Improper Application of Unstated Evaluation Criteria

The solicitation’s Specifications and Requirements do not require prior experience specifically within the “bus battery industry” as a condition of responsiveness or responsibility.

The stated requirements focus on:

- Technical compliance of the batteries (Section 3)
- Delivery and operational requirements (Section 4)
- Quantity and ordering flexibility (Sections 2.7 and 2.8)

At no point does the solicitation require vendors to demonstrate prior transit or bus-specific experience. The County’s reliance on this factor constitutes the application of an unstated evaluation criterion, which is inconsistent with fundamental procurement principles requiring that all evaluation factors be disclosed in advance.

2. County Approval of Proposed Product as an “Approved Equal”

Prior to bid evaluation, the County reviewed and approved Batteries Plus’s proposed product (**East Penn / Deka 908DFT**) as an acceptable equivalent.

This approval confirms that:

- The product meets or exceeds all technical specifications
- The County deemed the offering suitable for its operational needs

Having approved the product as compliant, the subsequent rejection based on generalized concerns regarding capability is inconsistent with the County’s own determination and undermines the integrity of the evaluation process.

3. Unsupported and Speculative Determination of Non-Responsibility

The determination cites concerns regarding:

- Lack of “bus battery industry” experience
- Logistics associated with warehouse and distribution locations

However, these concerns are speculative and not supported by objective evidence. Batteries Plus:

- Is an established supplier of commercial and heavy-duty batteries,
- Is supported by a nationally recognized manufacturer (East Penn Manufacturing),
- Has the operational capability to meet delivery, quantity, and service requirements outlined in the solicitation.

The solicitation itself requires delivery F.O.B. destination and places responsibility for logistics on the contractor. Batteries Plus’s supply chain and distribution model are fully capable of meeting these requirements.

No evidence has been presented demonstrating that Batteries Plus cannot meet delivery timelines, fulfill order quantities, or comply with contract requirements. Absent such evidence, the conclusion that Batteries Plus is non-responsible is arbitrary and not supported by the facts.

4. Demonstrated Experience, Product Consistency, and Verified Operational Capability

The County’s determination that Batteries Plus lacks relevant experience and operational capability is directly contradicted by readily verifiable facts in the record.

First, Batteries Plus currently supports multiple major public transit systems, including but not limited to:

- City of Orlando
- Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD)
- New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

These agencies represent some of the largest and most operationally demanding transit systems in the United States. Batteries Plus’s ongoing support of these entities demonstrates direct, relevant experience in supplying batteries for transit fleet applications and refutes the assertion that the firm does not operate within the bus battery industry.

Second, the product proposed by Batteries Plus (**East Penn / Deka batteries**) has already been approved by the County as an acceptable equivalent and is the same manufacturer and product line currently supplied by the incumbent vendor under this contract. This further demonstrates that the proposed solution is industry-standard, proven in transit applications, and fully capable of meeting the County’s operational requirements.

In addition, East Penn Manufacturing maintains a distribution center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, located approximately 12 miles from the Batteries Plus facility. This local distribution capability further mitigates any perceived logistical concerns and enables rapid fulfillment of battery orders.

Notably, this is the same manufacturer and distribution network utilized within the industry, including by the incumbent supplier, further demonstrating that Batteries Plus has access to the same supply chain infrastructure relied upon for current contract performance.

Third, County personnel conducted a site visit of the Batteries Plus facility in Florida. During this visit, the County was shown a warehouse facility with sufficient capacity to store significant inventory (including capacity to store approximately 18 pallets of battery inventory). The only noted concern was the absence of inventory at the time of the visit. However, as Batteries Plus is not currently under contract for this service, it would not be commercially reasonable to maintain dedicated inventory for a contract not yet awarded. The facility, supply chain, and manufacturer support are in place to procure, stage, and deliver inventory in accordance with contract requirements upon award.

Collectively, these facts demonstrate that Batteries Plus possesses the necessary experience, infrastructure, and supply capability to fully perform the contract. The County's conclusion to the contrary is therefore unsupported by the factual record.

5. Lack of Opportunity for Clarification

Batteries Plus was not provided an opportunity to address or clarify any perceived concerns related to its experience or logistics capabilities prior to being deemed non-responsible.

Given that responsibility determinations should be based on a thorough and fair evaluation of a vendor's ability to perform, the absence of any request for clarification further supports that the determination was premature and not fully substantiated.

III. Relief Requested

Based on the foregoing, Batteries Plus respectfully requests that Broward County:

1. Sustain this protest;
2. Set aside the current recommendation for award;
3. Re-evaluate Batteries Plus's bid in accordance with the stated solicitation requirements and applicable procurement standards; and
4. Grant any other relief deemed appropriate.
5. Stay the award pending resolution of this protest.

IV. Reservation of Rights

Batteries Plus reserves all rights available under the Broward County Procurement Code, including the right to supplement this protest with additional supporting documentation and argument as necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please confirm receipt of this protest and advise of any additional requirements, including any applicable filing fee or procedural steps.

Sincerely,
Ricky Ibarra

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricky Ibarra', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

**VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE
QUOTATION AND INVITATION TO BID**

The completed Vendor Questionnaire should be submitted with the solicitation response. If not submitted with solicitation response, it must be submitted within three business days after County's written request. Failure to timely submit this form may result in the Vendor being deemed nonresponsive.

If a response requires additional information, the Vendor should upload a written detailed response with submittal; each response should be labeled to match the question number.

1. Legal business name: **Los Pasos LLC**
2. Doing Business As/Fictitious Name (if applicable): **Batteries Plus**
3. Federal Employer I.D. No. (FEIN): **84-1905350**
4. Dun and Bradstreet No.: **024007095**
5. Website address (if applicable): **www.batteriesplus.com**
6. Principal place of business address: **6400 S. Dixie Hwy Suite 3 Miami FL 33143**
7. Office location responsible for this project: **6400 S. Dixie Hwy Suite 3 Miami FL 33143**
8. Telephone No.: **305-661-4567** Fax No.: **305-661-4597**
9. Generic e-mail for purchase orders:
(Broward County auto distributes purchase orders: to ensure Vendor receives purchase orders, a company accessible e-mail address is suggested.)

10. Type of business (check appropriate box):

- Corporation (specify the state of incorporation):
- Sole Proprietor
- Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- Limited Partnership
- General Partnership
- Other - Specify:

11. Specify the type of services or commodities Vendor offers: (

Nationwide Franchise of Batteries, Lighting and Phone/Tablet Repairs

12. Years Vendor has been in business providing the services and/or products offered?

6 years

13. Authorized Contact(s):

Name: Ricky Ibarra	Name: Tomas Arossa
Title: Franchise Owner	Title: Franchise Owner
E-mail: ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com	E-mail: tomas.arossa@batteriesplus.com
Telephone No.: 305-767-0907	Telephone No.: 786-566-6476

**VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE
QUOTATION AND INVITATION TO BID**

14. List name and title of each principal, owner, officer, and majority shareholder:

a) Ricky Ibarra	d)
b) Tomas Arossa	e)
c) Jose Arossa	f)

15. Is Vendor or any of its principals or officers currently a principal or officer of another organization? If yes, specify details in an attached written response. Yes No

16. Affiliated Entities of the Principal(s): List the names and addresses of "affiliated entities" of the Vendor's principal(s) over the last five years (from the solicitation opening deadline) that have acted as a prime vendor with the County. Affiliated entities of the principal(s) are those entities related to the Vendor by the sharing of stock or other means of control, including but not limited to a subsidiary, parent, or sibling entity.

a)	c)
b)	d)

17. Has Vendor, or any of its principals, officers, or predecessor organization(s), been debarred or suspended by any government entity within the last three years? If yes, specify details in an attached written response. Yes No

18. Has Vendor ever failed to complete any services and/or delivery of products during the last three years? If yes, specify details in an attached written response. Yes No

19. Has a voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy petition been filed by or against Vendor, its parent, or any of its subsidiaries or predecessor organizations, during the last three years? If yes, specify details in an attached written response. Yes No

20. Has Vendor's surety intervened to assist in the completion of a contract or have Performance and/or Payment Bond claims been made to Vendor's or its predecessor's sureties during the last three years? If yes, specify details in an attached written response, including contact information for owner and surety company. Yes No

21. Affirm Vendor is currently authorized by the manufacturer as a dealer/seller of the product(s) offered, and the warranty offered is the manufacturer's warranty with Broward County recorded as the original purchaser? Yes No N/A (if service)

22. Will Vendor extend the same price, terms, and conditions to other governmental entities during the period covered by this contract? Yes No

23. Does Vendor accept a Visa credit card as payment from Broward County, with no additional fees or change to bid price? Procurement Contract must be approved and designated for procurement card (p-card) by Director of Purchasing for use prior to ordering. Yes No

**VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE
QUOTATION AND INVITATION TO BID**

24. **Non-Collusion Certification:** The Vendor must disclose, to their best knowledge, any Broward County officer or employee, or any relative of any such officer or employee as defined in Section 112.3135(1)(d), Florida Statutes, who is an officer or director of, or has a material interest in, the Vendor's business, who is in a position to influence this procurement. Any Broward County officer or employee who has any input into the writing of specifications or requirements, solicitation of offers, decision to award, evaluation of offers, or any other activity pertinent to this procurement is presumed, for purposes hereof, to be in a position to influence this procurement. Failure of a Vendor to disclose any relationship described herein shall be reason for debarment in accordance with the provisions of the Broward County Procurement Code.

Select One:

- The Vendor certifies that this offer is made independently and free from collusion; or
- The Vendor is disclosing names of officers or employees who have a material interest in this procurement and is in a position to influence this procurement. The Vendor must include a list of name(s) and each relationship with its submittal.

25. **Drug-Free Workplace Certification:** In accordance with Section 287.087, Florida Statutes, whenever two or more submittals are tied, a submittal received from a Vendor that certifies it has implemented a drug-free workplace program shall be given preference in the award process.

The Vendor hereby certifies that: (only if Vendor is certifying that it currently complies, check box)

- The Vendor hereby certifies that it has established a drug-free workplace program in accordance with the requirements of Section 287.087, Florida Statutes, ("Preference to businesses with drug-free workplace programs").

26. **Participation in Solicitation Development:** By submission of this solicitation response, the Vendor certifies as follows (select one):

- I have not participated in the preparation or drafting of any language, scope, or specification that would provide Vendor or any affiliate an unfair advantage of securing this solicitation.
- I have provided information regarding the specifications and/or products listed in this solicitation. If this box is checked, provide the following:

Name /Division information was provided to:

Title:

Date information provided:

For what purpose was the information provided?

Questions 27 through 30 are only applicable to **service contracts** or **construction contracts** (repair, maintain, or furnish and install) solicitations:

27. List similar ongoing contracts Vendor currently working on. If additional space is required, provide on separate sheet.

**VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE
QUOTATION AND INVITATION TO BID**

28. Has Vendor completely inspected the project site(s) prior to submitting its solicitation response?
 Yes No
29. Does Vendor need to rent or purchase any equipment for this contract? If yes, please specify details in an attached written response. Yes No
30. List equipment Vendor owns that is available for this contract.
31. Provide at least three individuals, corporations, agencies, or institutions for which Vendor has provided similar type of services or commodities in the past three years. Only provide references for non-Broward County contracts. For Broward County contracts, the County will review performance evaluations in its database for vendors with previous or current contracts with the County. The County considers references and performance evaluations in the evaluation of the Vendor's past performance.

Reference 1:

Services/Commodity Provided: **Batteries**
Contract/Project Title: **Maintenance Batteries**
Agency: **Florida International University**
Contact Name/Title: **Yunier Ramos / Head of Procurement**
Contact Telephone: **305-244-0630**
Email: **yuramos@fiu.edu**
Contract/Project Dates (Month and Year): **2025 - 2026**
Contract Amount: **\$22,000 USD**

Reference 2:

Services/Commodity Provided: **Batteries/APC**
Contract/Project Title: **APC BATTERY REPLACEMENTS**
Agency: **Broward College**
Contact Name/Title: **Orville Harvey / Director of Technology**
Contact Telephone: **954-638-6857**
Email: **oharvey@broward.edu**
Contract/Project Dates (Month and Year): **2025-2026**
Contract Amount: **\$19,800**

Reference 3:

Services/Commodity Provided: **Batteries / Lighting**
Contract/Project Title: **Hotel Lighting & Accesories**
Agency: **Grand Beach Hotel Miami Beach**
Contact Name/Title: **Rolando Martinez / Director of Engineering**
Contact Telephone: **786-704-3530**
Email: **rmartinez@grandbeachhotel.com**
Contract/Project Dates (Month and Year): **2025-2026**
Contract Amount: **\$120,000 USD**

**VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE
QUOTATION AND INVITATION TO BID**

I hereby certify the information provided in this Vendor Questionnaire is true and correct*:

Vendor Name:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: Ricky Ibarra

Title: Franchise Owner

Date: 10/28/2025

* I certify that I am authorized to sign this solicitation response on behalf of the Vendor as indicated in Certificate as to Corporate Principal, designation letter by Director/Corporate Officer, or other business authorization to bind on behalf of the Vendor. As the Vendor's authorized representative, I attest that any and all statements, oral, written or otherwise, made in support of the Vendor's response are accurate, true, and correct. I also acknowledge that inaccurate, untruthful, or incorrect statements made in support of the Vendor's response may be used by the County as a basis for rejection, rescission of the award, or termination of the contract, and may also serve as the basis for debarment of the Vendor pursuant to Part XI of the Broward County Procurement Code. I certify that the Vendor's response is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same items/services, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. I also certify that the Vendor agrees to abide by all terms and conditions of this solicitation.

Form Date 7/1/25

Send Friday, January 9, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Cc: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TW121304682 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

Good morning,

Acknowledging receipt.

Regards



BATTERIES AND BULBS
 1325 S. Halladay Avenue, Room 213
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
 Phone: 954-557-6317
 Cell Phone: 954-620-6167
 Email: rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
 Website: www.batteriesandbulbs.com



Great customer service is what makes us stand out. Please encourage our customers to return.

Attention: Rick Ibarra - If you're not registered with the EPA, you will receive an email notification from us on how to register. Check out the EPA website for more information on how to register.

From: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TW121304682 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

GOOD MORNING

Please see attached. Please return the two 5500 Top Post Terminals and 80 Side Post with Thread and Group 33 Type AGM1 on Approval Board with Toward Post. Please return the battery to me and let me know if you have any other questions.

Lastly I am attaching the invoice a report for I received for the 5500 batteries.

Thank you and happy Friday!

Rick Ibarra



BATTERIES AND BULBS
 1325 S. Halladay Avenue, Room 213
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
 Phone: 954-557-6317
 Cell Phone: 954-620-6167
 Email: rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
 Website: www.batteriesandbulbs.com

From: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Date: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020 AT 2:30 PM
To: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TW121304682 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

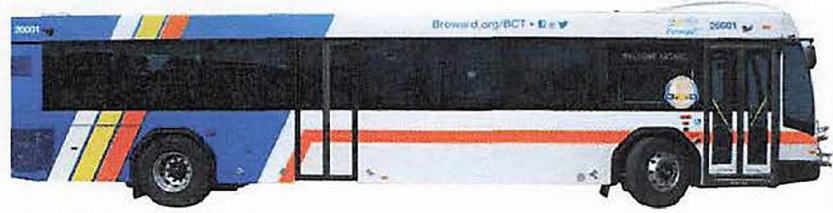
Please provide a copy of the product data sheet for the battery (80 Side Post with Thread and Group 33 Type AGM1 on Approval Board with Toward Post).

Thanks in advance.

Regards



BATTERIES AND BULBS
 1325 S. Halladay Avenue, Room 213
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
 Phone: 954-557-6317
 Cell Phone: 954-620-6167
 Email: rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
 Website: www.batteriesandbulbs.com



Great customer service is what makes us stand out. Please encourage our customers to return.

Attention: Rick Ibarra - If you're not registered with the EPA, you will receive an email notification from us on how to register. Check out the EPA website for more information on how to register.

From: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Date: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020 AT 3:00 PM
To: Rick Ibarra (Franchise Owner) rick@batteriesandbulbs.com
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TW121304682 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

Thank you for your response.

Regards



Client satisfaction is **What's It About Us Doing?** Please complete our **Customer Survey**.

Appreciate feedback - **Feedback** is important to us. We're committed to providing you with the highest quality service possible. We're committed to providing you with the highest quality service possible. We're committed to providing you with the highest quality service possible.

From Rick's Home (Florida) County: www.broward.org
Sara Winkler January 2, 2015 10:59 AM
Re: Rick@broward.org
Cc: Thomas Lewis (Florida) County: Thomas.Lewis@broward.org; Patricia Spence (Florida) County: Patricia.Spence@broward.org
Subject: RE: ACTION ITEM: 10/13/14: Bus Batteries (ITA)

No attachments are showing or contained. They've been removed here for you.

Customer ID:
6400 South Olive Hwy Suite 2-4040 FL 33414.

Ricky Derra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It.



www.batteriesandbulbs.com | 305-797-4007
6400 South Olive Hwy Miami FL 33143
Rick@broward.org

From Rick's Home (Florida) County: www.broward.org

Sara Winkler January 2, 2015 10:59 AM

Re: Rick@broward.org

Cc: Thomas Lewis (Florida) County: Thomas.Lewis@broward.org; Patricia Spence (Florida) County: Patricia.Spence@broward.org

Subject: RE: ACTION ITEM: 10/13/14: Bus Batteries (ITA)

Regards, Sara



Sara M. Lewis, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, MSP®, CFPQB, MSP/CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
175 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 305-357-3825
Cell: 305-485-1021
Fax: 305-357-4025
Email: sara@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **What's It About Us Doing?** Please complete our **Customer Survey**.

From Sara's Home

Sara Winkler January 2, 2015 10:59 AM

Re: Rick@broward.org

Cc: Thomas Lewis (Florida) County: Thomas.Lewis@broward.org; Patricia Spence (Florida) County: Patricia.Spence@broward.org

Subject: RE: ACTION ITEM: 10/13/14: Bus Batteries (ITA)

Acknowledging receipt.

Thank you

Regards, Sara



Sara M. Lewis, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, MSP®, CFPQB, MSP/CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
175 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 305-357-3825
Cell: 305-485-1021
Fax: 305-357-4025
Email: sara@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **What's It About Us Doing?** Please complete our **Customer Survey**.

From Sara's Home (Florida) County: www.broward.org

Sara Winkler January 2, 2015 10:59 AM

Re: Rick@broward.org

Cc: Thomas Lewis (Florida) County: Thomas.Lewis@broward.org; Patricia Spence (Florida) County: Patricia.Spence@broward.org

Subject: RE: ACTION ITEM: 10/13/14: Bus Batteries (ITA)

Yes,

Please see attached.

Let me know if there is anything else that is needed.

Ricky Derra

www.batteriesandbulbs.com | 305-797-4007
6400 South Olive Hwy Miami FL 33143
Rick@broward.org



From: Lovell, Sonia <SLOVETT@batteries.com>
Date: Monday, January 6, 2020 at 2:08 PM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <RICKIB@BATTERIESPLUS.COM>
Cc: Patricia A. Stachura <SLOVETT@batteries.com> Patrick, Patricia A. Stachura <SLOVETT@batteries.com>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: FRN21046482 - Bus Batteries (FIA)
Good afternoon,

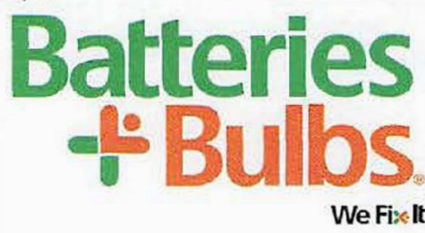
Is there a physical Franchise Agreement?
Regards, Sonia



Sonia M. Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPPQB, NIGP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-357-6500
Cell: 954-569-1691
Fax: 954-357-6535
Email: slovet@broward.com
Website: www.broward.com/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our **Customer Survey**.

Please Reply to my email on my cell phone or text me at 954-569-1691
Thank you @Sonia for everything and happy 2020!
Ricky Ibarra



From: Lovell, Sonia <SLOVETT@batteries.com>
Date: Wednesday, December 31, 2019 at 10:10 AM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <RICKIB@BATTERIESPLUS.COM>
Cc: Patricia A. Stachura <SLOVETT@batteries.com> Patrick, Patricia A. Stachura <SLOVETT@batteries.com>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: FRN21046482 - Bus Batteries (FIA)
Good afternoon,

The County is currently reviewing your response to Solicitation No. FRN21046482 for Bus Batteries (FIA). As with the exact legal entity that will be awarded the contract and perform the services must be determined. **Los Pinos LLC** indicated in its questionnaire that it is a part of a franchise. Are the services provided through the franchise or solely by Los Pinos LLC, unrelated to the franchise LLC? Services will be provided by Los Pinos LLC. (If it is Batteries Plus)

- Please provide clarification regarding the following and provide supporting documentation:
- Whether the bidder bid exclusively in the name of bid team entity to use the BPA's trademark/franchise appearing in the bid. YES/NO We have a current Franchise Agreement with Batteries Plus Corporate
 - Whether the Los Pinos LLC was authorized to submit the bid in its own legal name and to bind the trademark/franchise to the extent referred upon in the bid. YES/NO We have a current Franchise Agreement with Batteries Plus Corporate
 - Whether the bid proposal history provided covers:
 1. Los Pinos LLC;
 2. Batteries Plus (do it and
 3. Any other entity whose experience, email, systems, or resources were relied upon (i.e. Batteries Plus LLC) as indicated on their website.

Kindly, provide a response by **4:00 pm (EST), Wednesday, January 7, 2020**, or sooner if possible.
Regards, Sonia



Sonia M. Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPPQB, NIGP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-357-6500
Cell: 954-569-1691
Fax: 954-357-6535
Email: slovet@broward.com
Website: www.broward.com/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our **Customer Survey**.

Please Reply to my email on my cell phone or text me at 954-569-1691
Thank you @Sonia for everything and happy 2020!
Ricky Ibarra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It

ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com | 305-747-4907
6400 South Dixie Hwy Miami FL 33143
BatteriesPlus.com



From: Lovett, Sonia <SLQVETT@broward.org>
Date: Monday, December 29, 2025 at 1:47 PM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Cc: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STIRICH65@broward.org>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)
Good afternoon and Happy Holidays,

The award for this solicitation is currently under review. A recommendation for award will be posted once the County has made a decision.

Regards, Sonia



Sonia M. Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPPOB, NIGP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-357-9506
Cell: 954-969-1591
Fax: 954-357-6535
Email: slqvett@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our **Customer Survey!**

From: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STIRICH65@broward.org>
Cc: Lovett, Sonia <SLQVETT@broward.org>
Subject: Re: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)

Hi Stacie,

First and foremost, happy holidays!

Any updates to the RFP?

Thanks for all you guys did!

Ricky Ibarra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It

ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com | 305-747-4907
6400 South Dixie Hwy Miami FL 33143
BatteriesPlus.com



From: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Date: Friday, December 12, 2025 at 11:41 AM
To: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STIRICH65@broward.org>, tommas.aronso@batteriesplus.com, stomas.aronso@batteriesplus.com
Cc: Lovett, Sonia <SLQVETT@broward.org>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)
Please let me know!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Ricky Ibarra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It

ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com | 305-747-4907
6400 South Dixie Hwy Miami FL 33143
BatteriesPlus.com



From: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STIRICH65@broward.org>
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 9:07 AM
To: ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com, ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com, tommas.aronso@batteriesplus.com, stomas.aronso@batteriesplus.com
Cc: Lovett, Sonia <SLQVETT@broward.org>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)
Good morning,

Thank you, your response to Solicitation No. TRN213046482 for Bus Batteries (FTA). Please note that additional information is required to complete the review of your bid substantial. Attached are questions for your firm's response for further consideration. Kindly, provide the following by **4:00 pm (EST), Monday, December 15, 2025 (or sooner if possible)**.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Regards



BROWARD COUNTY
Procurement Agency
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-338-3377
Email: procurement@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org/procurement



Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our [Customer Survey](#).

Attended Vehicle - If you're not **100% satisfied** with our service, please contact our **Customer Support** team to help you resolve your issue. [Click here to contact our Customer Support team](#).

Under Florida law, any e-mail messages to or from Broward County employees or officials are public records, available to any person upon request, absent an exemption. Therefore, any e-mail messages to or from the County, inclusive of e-mail addresses contained therein, may be subject to public disclosure.

Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021, 5:54 AM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Richard) <ricki@statean.com>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: TRV12130366/02 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

Good morning,

Acknowledging receipt,

Regards,



Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our [Customer Survey](#).

Attention Vendors - If you're not registered with SPAC, our electronic procurement system, you're missing out on business opportunities. [Click here to register with SPAC](#) and get the full benefits of SPAC now. At least, [click here to register with SPAC](#).

From: Richard, State-An <ricki@statean.com>

Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021, 9:54 AM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Richard) <ricki@statean.com>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: TRV12130366/02 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

GOOD MORNING

Please see attachments. Please note that the Type 8000 Top Post Terminal and 82366 Post with Thread is to ensure safety made with different post configurations. I have attached one spec of one battery and the specs of the one post with thread terminal. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Letty I am awaiting your approval request for I received for the 8000 terminal.

Thank you and happy Friday!

Ricky Ibarra



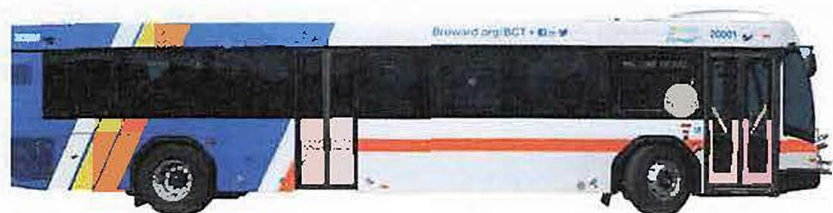
From: Richard, State-An <ricki@statean.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2020 at 2:00 PM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Richard) <ricki@statean.com>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: TRV12130366/02 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

Please provide a copy of the product data sheets/parts into stock or all three (3) Type 8000 Top Post Terminal, 60 Rate Post with Thread and Group 31 Type AGM-1 or Approved Specs with Thread Post.

Thanks in advance.

Regards,



Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our [Customer Survey](#).

Attention Vendors - If you're not registered with SPAC, our electronic procurement system, you're missing out on business opportunities. [Click here to register with SPAC](#) and get the full benefits of SPAC now. At least, [click here to register with SPAC](#).

From: Richard, State-An
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2021, 2:35 PM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Richard) <ricki@statean.com>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: TRV12130366/02 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

Thank you for your response.

Regards,



Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our [Customer Survey](#).

Attention Vendors - If you're not registered with **BPRO**, our electronic procurement system, you're missing out on business opportunities. Don't delay - [BROWARD.COM/REG](#) today! For help registering, check out our [BROWARD.COM/REG](#) page or email Support@broward.com.

From: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 12:10 PM
To: Richards, Stacie-Ann starchieards@broward.org
Cc: Lovett, Sonia SLQVETT@broward.org; Tomasi, Arossa tomasi.arossa@batteriesplus.com
Subject: Re: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 - Bus Batteries (FTA)

Please see all attachments.

Fred Pulver is the point of contact I have for Broward County Parks & Recs.

He has purchased at one of our locations quite a bit in the past.

Email on file: fpulver@broward.org
Phone Number on file: 9543578753

I've attached the history of everything purchased.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

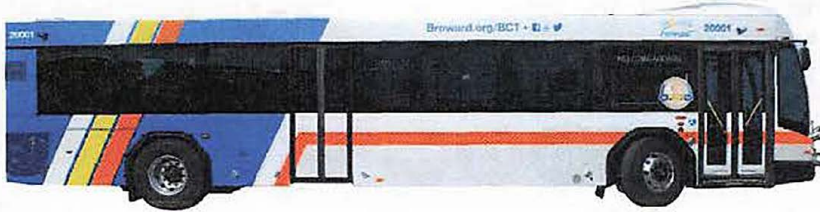
Ricky Ibarra

From: Richards, Stacie-Ann starchieards@broward.org
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 11:41 AM
To: ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com; ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com; tomasi.arossa@batteriesplus.com; tomasi.arossa@batteriesplus.com
Cc: Lovett, Sonia SLQVETT@broward.org
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 - Bus Batteries (FTA)
Good morning,

Please provide the reference information for Broward County Parks and Recreations, along with the missing FTA documents attached, for review and completion.

Regards





Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our **Customer Survey!**

Customer Message: If you're not satisfied with BCT's service, we'd like to hear from you. Please let us know how we can improve our service. We'll be glad to help you. For more information, please visit www.broward.org/BCT or call 305-367-6007. Your comment is **valued!**

From: Ricky Barre, Executive Director, rbarre@broward.org
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 12:45 PM
To: sonia@broward.org
Re: **Customer Survey**
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED (REG1304548) - Bus Batteries (ETA)

No problem on the amount of questions! That's what we are here for.

Business Plan
6400 South Dixie Hwy. Box 202 Miami, FL 33143.

Ricky Barre

sonia@broward.org | 305-767-6007
6400 South Dixie Hwy. Miami, FL 33143
www.broward.org

From: Ricky Barre, Executive Director, rbarre@broward.org
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 12:45 PM
To: sonia@broward.org
Re: **Customer Survey**
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED (REG1304548) - Bus Batteries (ETA)

I apologize for all the questions, however, I truly believe the address where services will be provided or products purchased.

Regards, Sonia

SONIA M. LEVINE, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPPDR, MSP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
175 N. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
Phone: 305-367-6000
Cell: 305-367-1000
Fax: 305-367-6000
Email: sonia@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our **Customer Survey!**

From: Ricky Barre
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2018 12:45 PM
To: sonia@broward.org
Re: **Customer Survey**
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED (REG1304548) - Bus Batteries (ETA)

Acknowledging receipt.

Thank you

Regards, Sonia

SONIA M. LEVINE, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPPDR, MSP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
175 N. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
Phone: 305-367-6000
Cell: 305-367-1000
Fax: 305-367-6000
Email: sonia@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our **Customer Survey!**

From: Ricky Barre, Executive Director, rbarre@broward.org
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2018 5:00 PM
To: sonia@broward.org
Re: **Customer Survey**
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED (REG1304548) - Bus Batteries (ETA)

Yes.

Please see attached.

Let me know if there is anything else that is needed.

Ricky Barre

sonia@broward.org | 305-767-6007
6400 South Dixie Hwy. Miami, FL 33143
www.broward.org

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It.



From: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA@BATTERIESPLUS.COM>
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 at 2:28 PM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Cc: Tomas Arias (Franchise Owner) <tomas.arias@batteriesplus.com>, Patrick Forman <patrickforman@batteriesplus.com>, Richard, Stacie Ann <stacieann@batteriesplus.com>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213045482 -Bus Batteries (ITA)
Good afternoon,

Is there a physical Franchise Agreement?

Regards, Sonia



Sonia M. Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPOB®, NIGP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-367-8806
Cell: 954-698-1681
Fax: 954-357-8535
Email: slovett@broward.net
Website: www.broward.com/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our [Customer Survey](#).

From: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 12:33 AM
To: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA@BATTERIESPLUS.COM>, Richard, Stacie Ann <stacieann@batteriesplus.com>, Patrick Forman <patrickforman@batteriesplus.com>
Cc: Tomas Arias (Franchise Owner) <tomas.arias@batteriesplus.com>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213045482 -Bus Batteries (ITA)

Good evening!

Please see answers per below.

Thank you very much for @batteriesplus and happy 2026!

Ricky Ibarra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It.



ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com | 305-767-0907
6400 South Dixie Hwy Miami FL 33143
BatteriesPlus.com

From: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA@BATTERIESPLUS.COM>
Date: Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 10:10 AM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Cc: Richard, Stacie Ann <stacieann@batteriesplus.com>, Patrick Forman <patrickforman@batteriesplus.com>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213045482 -Bus Batteries (ITA)
Good morning,

The County is currently reviewing your response to Solicitation No. TRN213044482 for Bus Batteries (ITA). As such, the exact legal entity that will be bound by the contract and perform the services must be determined. Los Pinos LLC indicated in its questionnaire that it is part of a franchise. Are the services provided through the franchise or solely by Los Pinos LLC unrelated to the franchise? Services will be provided by Los Pinos LLC/DRA Batteries Plus.

Please provide clarification regarding the following and provide supporting documentation:

- Whether the bidder had authority at the time of bid submission to use the DRA's franchised name appearing in the bid. VTN We have a current Franchise Agreement with Batteries Plus Corp.
- Whether the Los Pinos LLC was authorized to submit the bid in its own legal name and to bind the franchise and brand to the extent relied upon in the bid. VTN We have a current Franchise Agreement with Batteries Plus Corp.
- Whether the Los Pinos LLC had an active Florida business name registration for the DRA (Batteries Plus Bulbs) used in the bid. Yes, please see attached.
- Whether the following list of provided owners **Correct**:
 1. Los Pinos LLC
 2. Batteries Plus Bulbs (dba) and
 3. Any other entity whose experience, brand, systems, or resources were relied upon (i.e., Batteries Plus LLC as indicated in their website)

Kindly, provide a response by 5:00 pm (EST), **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**, (or sooner if possible).

Regards, Sonia



Sonia M. Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPOB®, NIGP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-367-8806
Cell: 954-698-1681
Fax: 954-357-8535
Email: slovett@broward.net
Website: www.broward.com/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our [Customer Survey](#).

From: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 10:05 AM
To: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA@BATTERIESPLUS.COM>
Cc: Richard, Stacie Ann <stacieann@batteriesplus.com>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213045482 -Bus Batteries (ITA)

Thank you for the update!

I hope everyone has a great new year!

Ricky Ibarra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It

sonia.lovet@batteriesplus.com | 305-747-0907
6400 South Dixie Hwy Miami FL 33143
BatteriesPlus.com



From: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA.LOVETT@broward.org>
Date: Monday, December 29, 2025 at 1:47 PM
To: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Cc: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STACIE.A.RICHARDS@broward.org>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)
Good afternoon and Happy Holidays.

The award for this solicitation is currently under review. A recommendation for award will be posted once the County has made a decision.
Regards, Sonia



Sonia M. Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, MPA, PMP®, CPROB, NIGP-CPP
Broward County Purchasing Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-357-2635
Cell: 954-697-1581
Fax: 954-357-2538
Email: sonia@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org/purchasing

Client satisfaction is **Priority #1**. How are we doing? Please complete our [Customer Survey](#).

From: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2025 1:26 PM
To: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STACIE.A.RICHARDS@broward.org>
Cc: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA.LOVETT@broward.org>
Subject: Re: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)

Good afternoon,

Provided to email, please advise

Any update to the bid?

Thanks for all you guys do!

Ricky Ibarra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It

sonia.lovet@batteriesplus.com | 305-747-0907
6400 South Dixie Hwy Miami FL 33143
BatteriesPlus.com



From: Ricky Ibarra (Franchise Owner) <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Date: Monday, December 12, 2025 at 11:41 AM
To: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STACIE.A.RICHARDS@broward.org>, Sonia Lovett <sonia.lovet@batteriesplus.com>, Ricky Ibarra <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Cc: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA.LOVETT@broward.org>
Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)
Please see attached.

county #2130

Ricky Ibarra

Batteries + Bulbs

We Fix It

sonia.lovet@batteriesplus.com | 305-747-0907
6400 South Dixie Hwy Miami FL 33143
BatteriesPlus.com



From: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STACIE.A.RICHARDS@broward.org>
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 9:07 AM
To: Ricky Ibarra <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>, Sonia Lovett <sonia.lovet@batteriesplus.com>, Ricky Ibarra <ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com>
Cc: Lovett, Sonia <SONIA.LOVETT@broward.org>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: TRN213046482 -Bus Batteries (FTA)
Good morning,

Thank you for your response to Solicitation No. TRN213046482 for Bus Batteries (FTA). Please note that additional information is required to complete the review of your bid submittal. Attached are questions for your firm's review for further consideration. Kindly, provide the following by **5:00 pm (EST), Monday, December 15, 2025 (or sooner if possible)**.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Regards,



Client Information: procurement@broward.net, www.broward.net
Approved Vendor: www.broward.net
Site Safety: www.broward.net

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Transportation Department
1 N. University Drive, Room 2400B • Plantation, Florida 33324 • 954-357-8405 • FAX 954-357-8345

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 2026

TO: Robert Gleason, Director, Purchasing Division

FROM: Walter Castillo, Materials Manager, Transportation Department

SUBJECT: Non-Concurrence of Award for Bid# TRN2130464B2, Bus Batteries (FTA), Alamex, Inc., Green Dream International, LLC, Los Pasos LLC, dba Batteries Plus, Parts Authority, and GUTZ, LLC dba Batteries ETC

Digitally signed by
Castillo, Walterio
Date: 2026.02.26
14:44:52 -0500

The Broward County Transportation Department (BCT) Operations Division is seeking a vendor to deliver bus batteries.

Bid# TRN2130464B2, Bus Batteries (FTA) was advertised on October 10, 2025, and ended on October 28, 2025. Nine (9) responses were received from Alamex, Inc., Green Dream International, LLC, Parts Authority, LLC, Adelleway.com, Glades Parts Company Inc. dba Original Equipment Co., Los Pasos LLC, Batteries ETC, Number 1 Transport Inc., and General Fleet Services.

On October 30, 2025, the Purchasing Division sent an email to Alamex, Inc. to submit additional documents but did not receive a response; see Exhibit A attached. The lowest vendor was deemed non-responsive on October 30, 2025.

On November 25, 2025, BCT was instructed to perform our responsibility review for the second lowest vendor (Green Dream International, LLC). BCT sent out reference forms to the three (3) vendors listed on the Vendor Questionnaire and received all three (3) responses back by December 1, 2025. BCT still had questions and sent Purchasing a list of questions to ask the vendor on December 3, 2025. Purchasing sent the questions to Green Dream International, LLC on December 3, 2025, and received a response on December 4, 2025, see Exhibit B attached.

After reviewing the vendor's answers, the vendor is not compliant with Section 5.2 of the Specifications and Requirements which discusses a 72-hour pickup for battery cores. The vendor stated BCT to ship battery cores to an address provided by the vendor, and the vendor stated they need one week to pick up the defective batteries that are under warranty. Both responses above do not meet BCT's Specifications and Requirements. A Non-Concurrence of Award was processed on December 5, 2025.

BCT reviewed Los Pasos LLC, dba Batteries Plus's bid response. Batteries Plus does not currently operate within the bus battery industry and has no past performance specific to this market. While the vendor has expressed an interest in entering the bus battery sector, intent alone does not meet the technical, safety, and reliability requirements necessary for this procurement. Additionally, the vendor's warehouse is located in Wisconsin, with its distributor based in Pennsylvania, which introduces additional logistics complexity and increased lead time from order placement to delivery. Given the critical nature of bus battery systems and the associated operational risks, concurrence is not recommended at this time until the vendor can substantiate proven industry involvement and compliance with applicable standards.

BCT performed a site visit on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 10:00am; see site-visit pictures in Exhibit C attached. The primary location is approximately 2,000 square feet with 1,000 square feet dedicated to retail and the other 1,000 square feet for warehousing, which is not adequate to hold the vendor's current battery storage and the additional batteries for BCT. A Non-Concurrence of Award was processed on January 21, 2026.

BCT received Parts Authority, LLC bid response on January 21, 2026. After reviewing the bid documents, the vendor indicated Part B on the Buy America Form. BCT reached out requesting the waiver and the vendor replied they do not have an FTA waiver. The vendor further went on to explain that there was a misunderstanding of what was requested. BCT recommended the vendor reach out to the FTA Chief Counsel to clarify if the FTA will accept a revised Buy America Form. On February 2, 2026, Parts Authority reached out to the FTA Chief Counsel to petition the incorrect Buy America Form. On February 4, 2026, the FTA Chief Counsel's Office denied Parts Authority petition to resubmit a revised Buy America Form per 49 CFR § 661.13(b)(1) as the petition email request was more than ten (10) days from the bid open date on October 24, 2025. See email thread in Exhibit D for reference. A Non-Concurrence of Award was processed on February 5, 2026.

BCT reviewed GUTZ, LLC dba Batteries ETC bid response and sent the Vendor Questions Spreadsheet to the vendor to complete on February 9, 2026. BCT received their response on February 12, 2026. After review, the vendor does not currently operate within the bus battery industry and has no past performance specific to this market. See Exhibit E attached. Given the critical nature of bus battery systems and the associated operational risks, concurrence is not recommended at this time until the vendor can substantiate proven industry involvement and compliance with applicable standards. A non-concurrence was processed on February 13, 2026. BCT is processing an award to the next lowest vendor, Glades Parts Co, Inc dba Original Equipment CO.

For additional information, please contact Walter Castillo at (954) 357-8431 or Wacastillo@broward.org.

CC: Angelica Love, Deputy General Manager, Transportation Department
Sonia Lovett, Senior Purchasing Manager, Purchasing Division
Yanell Fernandez, Program Project Coordinator, Sr., Administration Division
Ashram Maharaj, Program Project Coordinator, Administration Division

Exhibit A

Maharaj, Ashram

From: Richards, Stacie-Ann
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 11:31 AM
To: Maharaj, Ashram
Subject: FW: ACTION REQUIRED - Solicitation No. TRN2130464B2 for Bus Batteries (FTA)
Attachments: FTA Funding Supplement Acknowledgement (1).pdf; FTA Government-Wide Debarment Certification (4).pdf; FTA Restrictions on Lobbying Certification (1).pdf; FTA Restrictions on Lobbying Certification (Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance) (1).pdf; Insurance Requirements - Quotes Bids (9).docx; Litigation History (10).docx; Vendors Participant List (Federal Funding) (2).pdf; 1-Vendor Questionnaire - Quotes and Bids.pdf

FYI



Stacie-Ann Richards, BSc, CPPB, NIGP-CPP

Purchasing Agent
Broward County Purchasing Division
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-357-5517
Cell Phone: 954-859-8197
Email: st Richards@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org/purchasing



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From: Richards, Stacie-Ann
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:24 AM
To: 'contact@alamexusa.com' <contact@alamexusa.com>
Cc: Lovett, Sonia <SLOVETT@broward.org>
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED - Solicitation No. TRN2130464B2 for Bus Batteries (FTA)

Good morning,

Please be advised that your response to Solicitation No. TRN2130464B2 for Bus Batteries (FTA) is currently under review. Please note that additional information is required to complete the review, to provide the following by **5:00 pm (EST), Tuesday, November 4, 2025 (or sooner if possible)**:

1. In your submitted response, the Vendor Questionnaire is missing information for the answer to questions #28 (provide required answer), #29 (provide requires answer), and #30 (Contact Title, Contract/Project Dates and Contract Amount is required for reference #1, Contact Title, Email, Contract/Project Dates and Contract Amount is required for reference #2, and Contract/Project Title, Contact Title, Email, Contract/Project Dates and Contract Amount is required for reference #3). Kindly provide missing information and return a revised questionnaire.
2. Please complete and sign the following missing forms (see attachments):
 - Anti Human Trafficking Affidavit
 - Insurance Requirements Form
 - Litigation History Form
 - FTA Supplement Acknowledgement
 - FTA Government-wide Debarment Certification
 - FTA Restrictions on Lobbying Certification
 - FTA Restrictions on Lobbying Certification (Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance)
 - Vendor Participant List
3. Please provide designation letter signed by the Director/Corporate Officer, authorizing the individual signing the solicitation documents to bind on behalf of Alamex, Inc.
4. Please confirmed that your firm can comply with Section, 4 (Delivery) and Section 5, (Core Pick-Up) of the solicitation Specifications and Requirements.

Kindly provide the required information by **5:00 pm (EST), Tuesday, November 04, 2025** (or sooner if possible) for further consideration.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Regards


Stacie-Ann Richards, BSc, CPPB, NIGP-CPP
Purchasing Agent
Broward County Purchasing Division

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954-357-5517
Cell Phone: 954-859-8197
Email: strichards@broward.org
Website: www.broward.org/purchasing



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Exhibit B

Question	Response
Do you have any other references that have a similar contract value (\$370,125 annually) that you can provide?	Yes, Assurant 1.7 Million, Walmart 600K, Fontainebleau Hotel 200K
Do you have public-sector references of firms to whom you've supplied bus batteries to?	Yes Florida international University
Have you done business with Broward County before, besides with the public school system?	Yes, Broward County Parks & Rec
Can you secure manufacturer letters granting dealer/distributor and commitment of allocation sufficient to cover ~1,375 batteries a year, with surge capacity of these special heavy-duty batteries?	YES
Can you provide your stocking strategy?	We will stock 4-6 of sales weeks worth of the product required in the BID in Fort Lauderdale.
Can you currently deliver SLAs to Copan's/Ravenswood in 48-hours for priority orders, per Section 4.1 of the Specifications and Requirements?	YES
Can you pick up battery cores at BCT facilities within 72-hours, per Section 5.2 of the Specifications and Requirements	YES
Can they handle the reverse logistics for warranty turnaround. (They need to pick up and replace any battery cores that fail within one year, section 7.3, within 72 hours, we don't have the ability to store cores longer than that, as stated in section 5.2.)	YES
What are your service-level expectations for response times?	48-72 Hours
Are spare parts and replacement modules stocked domestically?	YES
What are typical manufacturing and delivery lead times?	We will stock product in Fort Lauderdale to be able to provide 48-72 hour lead time.
What is your supply chain strategy for critical battery components?	We have one of the largest manufacturer of bus batteries in the world committed to this Bid. (East Penn Manufacture)
What contingency plans are in place for supply chain disruptions?	Stocking 4-6 weeks worth of supplies
What performance data from similar transit agencies can you share?	Whatever is needed.
What testing or validation will occur before full rollout?	Whatever is needed.

Exhibit C

Exhibit C





Exhibit D

BUY AMERICA CERTIFICATION for Iron, Steel, and Non-Rolling Stock Products

**BUY AMERICA CERTIFICATION
FOR PROCUREMENTS OF STEEL, IRON, OR MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS**

Certification of Compliance with Buy America Requirements:

The Bidder or Offeror hereby certifies that it will comply with the requirements of 49 USC 5323(j)(1) and the applicable regulations in 49 CFR part 661.

(Date)

Authorized Signature

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Name of Company: _____

OR

Certification of Non-Compliance with Buy America Requirements:

The Bidder or Offeror hereby certifies that it cannot comply with the requirements of 49 USC 5323(j), but it may qualify for an exception to the requirements pursuant to 49 USC 5323(j)(2) as amended, and the applicable regulations in 49 CFR 661.7

10/16/25
(Date)

Authorized Signature

Print Name: Dave LaBarre

Print Title: Gov't Sales Manager

Company Name: Parts Authority LLC

Instructions: This Buy America certification must be submitted to Broward County with all bids or offers on FTA-funded Contracts involving the acquisition of steel, iron, or manufactured products unless a waiver has been granted by the FTA or the product is subject to a general waiver. Bids or offers that are not accompanied by a completed Buy America Certification will be rejected as nonresponsive. General waivers are listed in 49 CFR 661.7. Additional information on FTA's Buy America regulations can be found at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/buyamerica>. **Not for use with Rolling Stock.**

Maharaj, Ashram

From: Richards, Stacie-Ann
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Maharaj, Ashram
Cc: Lovett, Sonia; Jean-Pierre, Windelle; Pinnock, Jermaine
Subject: FW: TRN2130464B2 Bus Batteries for Broward County (DL) Transporation

Good afternoon, Ashram,

Please see the response from the FTA Chief Counsel regarding Parts Authority, LLC Buy America Certification. FTA has denied their petition; I will provide the next vendor information for vetting.

Regards



Stacie-Ann Richards, BSc, CPPB, NIGP-CPP

Purchasing Agent

Broward County Purchasing Division

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 212

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Phone: 954-357-5517

Cell Phone: 954-859-8197

Email: st Richards@broward.org

Website: www.broward.org/purchasing



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From: Luebbbers, Jason (FTA) <jason.luebbbers@dot.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:40 PM

To: Dave Labarre <dlabarre@partsauthority.com>
Cc: Richards, Stacie-Ann <STRICHARDS@broward.org>
Subject: RE: TRN2130464B2 Bus Batteries for Broward County (DL) Transportation

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Good afternoon, Dave.

Thank you for this additional information. FTA has no discretion in this matter and must deny your petition to change certifications because the petition is not timely. Thank you for your understanding.

Please see the below response on behalf of FTA Chief Counsel:

Thank you for your letter petition dated February 2, 2026, on behalf of Parts Authority, LLC requesting permission to change the Buy America certification signed and submitted to Broward County in its original bid proposal for TRN2130464B2 (bus batteries). Based on the time elapsed between the date of bid opening and the date of petition, FTA is required by law to deny the petition.

FTA's Buy America regulation does not allow the Chief Counsel discretion to approve a petition to recertify where a bidder petitions the Chief Counsel more than 10 days after the date of bid opening of submission. [49 CFR § 661.13\(b\)\(1\)](#). For this reason, FTA must deny your petition to change the Buy America certification.

Thank you for your understanding and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, you may reach me at (714) 787-6697 or Jason.Luebbers@dot.gov.

From: Dave Labarre <dlabarre@partsauthority.com>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 5:11 PM
To: Luebbers, Jason (FTA) <jason.luebbers@dot.gov>
Cc: STRICHARDS@broward.org
Subject: Re: TRN2130464B2 Bus Batteries for Broward County (DL) Transportation

You don't often get email from dlabarre@partsauthority.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

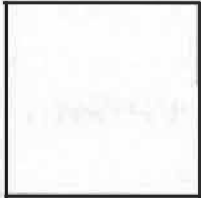
Copy is attached, the bid was opened on 10/24/25 at 2:00 PM

It was submitted to Broward County on 10/16/25 at 5:06 pm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Dave

Dave LaBarre
Government Sales Manager
Parts Authority LLC
3 Dakota Dr Ste 110
New Hyde Park, NY 11042
410-789-6571 x7532
443-386-4120 cell



On Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM Luebbbers, Jason (FTA) <jason.luebbbers@dot.gov> wrote:

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source! Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments!

Thank you, Dave.

In order for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to consider your request, can you please also attach the original certification made in error and provide the date of bid opening or final offer.

Regards,

Jason

Jason Luebbbers

Attorney Advisor, General Law

Federal Transit Administration

jason.luebbers@dot.gov

phone: (714) 787-6697

From: Dave Labarre <dlabarre@partsauthority.com>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 2:55 PM
To: Luebbers, Jason (FTA) <jason.luebbers@dot.gov>
Cc: STRICHARDS@broward.org
Subject: TRN2130464B2 Bus Batteries for Broward County (DL) Transportation

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02/02/2026

Re: TRN2130464B2 Bus Batteries for Broward County (DL) Transportation

Unfortunately we created an error on our Buy America Certification. We inadvertently requested a waiver as we did not think this document applied to a goods contract. We were in error.

The goods we have bid and proposed are all made in the US. I have attached the corrected document.

We request approval for this correction. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you

Regards,

Dave

Dave LaBarre

Government Sales Manager

Parts Authority LLC

3 Dakota Dr Ste 110

New Hyde Park, NY 11042

410-789-6571 x7532

443-386-4120 cell

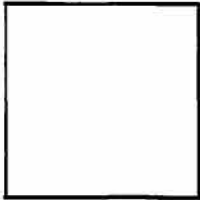


Exhibit E

Question	Response
Do you have any other references that have a similar contract value (\$375K annually) that you can provide?	NO
Do you have local government references of firms to whom you've supplied bus batteries to? If so, please provide the reference(s) information.	NO
Have you done business with Broward County before, besides with the public school system? If so, please provide the reference(s) information.	NO
Can you secure manufacturer letters granting dealer/distributor and commitment of allocation sufficient to cover ~1,375 batteries a year, with surge capacity of these special heavy-duty batteries?	YES
Can you provide your stocking strategy?	With forecast
Can you currently deliver SLAs to Copan's/Ravenswood in 48-hours for priority orders, per Section 4.1 of the Specifications and Requirements?	Yes
Can you pick up battery cores at BCT facilities within 72-hours, per Section 5.2 of the Specifications and Requirements	Yes
Can you handle the reverse logistics for warranty turnaround. (Vendor needs to pick up and replace any battery cores that fail within one year, section 7.3, within 72 hours. BCT does not have the ability to store cores longer than that, as stated in section 5.2.)	Yes
What are your service-level expectations for response times?	Same day/Next day
Are spare parts and replacement modules stocked domestically?	Yes
What are typical manufacturing and delivery lead times?	less than a week
What is your supply chain strategy for critical battery components?	Replace Battery if components not readily available
What contingency plans are in place for supply chain disruptions?	Get supplied from other distributors
What performance data from similar transit agencies can you share?	N/A
What testing or validation will occur before full rollout?	Voltage/Analyzer and load test
Please provide the name of your bus battery distributor	N/A



March 24th, 2026

RE: Bid No. TRN2130464B2 (Bus Batteries-FTA)

Mr. Gleason,

We are requesting that you reevaluate the recommendation for award of Bid No. TRN2130464B2 (Bus Batteries-FTA). We feel that we are the best option to service the county, both from a service and price standpoint. Every battery on our bid meets and/or exceeds the required specs, and with the help of both manufactures being utilized, we feel confident we can deliver in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of the County's time frame expectations.

We are attaching a formal letter of protest, as well as letters from both manufacturers. Please feel free to reach out with any comment's questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky Ibarra", is written over a horizontal line.

Ricky Ibarra
Owner Los Pasos LLC DBA Batteries Plus
305-7670907
ricky.ibarra@batteriesplus.com



RE: Formal Protest-Bid No. TRN2130464B2 (Bus Batteries-FTA)

Dear Ms. Richards,

FORMAL PROTEST

On behalf of Los Pasos, LLC d/b/a Batteries Plus, LLC ("Batteries Plus"), this letter constitutes a formal protest of the Recommendation for Award issued in connection with Bid No. TRN2130464B2 - Bus Batteries (FTA).

This protest is timely submitted in accordance with the Broward County Procurement Code and the Summary of Vendor Rights.

I. Basis of Protest

Batteries Plus respectfully protests the determination that its bid is "non-responsible." This determination is arbitrary, unsupported by the solicitation requirements, inconsistent with the County's prior actions during the procurement process, and based on speculative concerns rather than objective evidence.

II. Grounds for Protest

1. Improper Application of Unstated Evaluation Criteria

The solicitation's Specifications and Requirements do not require prior experience specifically within the "bus battery industry" as a condition of responsiveness or responsibility.

The stated requirements focus on:

- Technical compliance of the batteries (Section 3)
- Delivery and operational requirements (Section 4)
- Quantity and ordering flexibility (Sections 2.7 and 2.8)

At no point does the solicitation require vendors to demonstrate prior transit or bus-specific experience. The County's reliance on this factor constitutes the application of an unstated evaluation criterion, which is inconsistent with fundamental procurement principles requiring that all evaluation factors be disclosed in advance.

2. County Approval of Proposed Product as an "Approved Equal"

Prior to bid evaluation, the County reviewed and approved Batteries Plus's proposed product (East Penn / Deka 908DFT) as an acceptable equivalent.

This approval confirms that:

- The product meets or exceeds all technical specifications
- The County deemed the offering suitable for its operational needs

Having approved the product as compliant, the subsequent rejection based on generalized concerns regarding capability is inconsistent with the County's own determination and undermines the integrity of the evaluation process.

3. Unsupported and Speculative Determination of Non-Responsibility

The determination cites concerns regarding:

- Lack of “bus battery industry” experience
- Logistics associated with warehouse and distribution locations

However, these concerns are speculative and not supported by objective evidence. Batteries Plus:

- Is an established supplier of commercial and heavy-duty batteries,
- Is supported by a nationally recognized manufacturer (East Penn Manufacturing),
- Has the operational capability to meet delivery, quantity, and service requirements outlined in the solicitation.

The solicitation itself requires delivery F.O.B. destination and places responsibility for logistics on the contractor. Batteries Plus’s supply chain and distribution model are fully capable of meeting these requirements.

No evidence has been presented demonstrating that Batteries Plus cannot meet delivery timelines, fulfill order quantities, or comply with contract requirements. Absent such evidence, the conclusion that Batteries Plus is non-responsible is arbitrary and not supported by the facts.

4. Demonstrated Experience, Product Consistency, and Verified Operational Capability

The County’s determination that Batteries Plus lacks relevant experience and operational capability is directly contradicted by readily verifiable facts in the record.

First, Batteries Plus currently supports multiple major public transit systems, including but not limited to:

- City of Orlando
- Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD)
- New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

These agencies represent some of the largest and most operationally demanding transit systems in the United States. Batteries Plus’s ongoing support of these entities demonstrates direct, relevant experience in supplying batteries for transit fleet applications and refutes the assertion that the firm does not operate within the bus battery industry.

Second, the product proposed by Batteries Plus (East Penn / Deka batteries) has already been approved by the County as an acceptable equivalent and is the same manufacturer and product line currently supplied by the incumbent vendor under this contract. This further demonstrates that the proposed solution is industry-standard, proven in transit applications, and fully capable of meeting the County’s operational requirements.

In addition, East Penn Manufacturing maintains a distribution center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, located approximately 12 miles from the Batteries Plus facility. This local distribution capability further mitigates any perceived logistical concerns and enables rapid fulfillment of battery orders.

Notably, this is the same manufacturer and distribution network utilized within the industry, including by the incumbent supplier, further demonstrating that Batteries Plus has access to the same supply chain infrastructure relied upon for current contract performance.

Third, County personnel conducted a site visit of the Batteries Plus facility in Florida. During this visit, the County was shown a warehouse facility with sufficient capacity to store significant inventory (including capacity to store approximately 18 pallets of battery inventory). The only noted concern was the absence of inventory at the time of the visit. However, as Batteries Plus is not currently under contract for this service, it would not be commercially reasonable to maintain dedicated inventory for a contract not yet awarded. The facility, supply chain, and manufacturer support are in place to procure, stage, and deliver inventory in accordance with contract requirements upon award.

Collectively, these facts demonstrate that Batteries Plus possesses the necessary experience, infrastructure, and supply capability to fully perform the contract. The County's conclusion to the contrary is therefore unsupported by the factual record.

5. Lack of Opportunity for Clarification

Batteries Plus was not provided an opportunity to address or clarify any perceived concerns related to its experience or logistics capabilities prior to being deemed non-responsible.

Given that responsibility determinations should be based on a thorough and fair evaluation of a vendor's ability to perform, the absence of any request for clarification further supports that the determination was premature and not fully substantiated.

III. Relief Requested

Based on the foregoing, Batteries Plus respectfully requests that Broward County:

1. Sustain this protest;
2. Set aside the current recommendation for award;
3. Re-evaluate Batteries Plus's bid in accordance with the stated solicitation requirements and applicable procurement standards; and
4. Grant any other relief deemed appropriate.
5. Stay the award pending resolution of this protest.

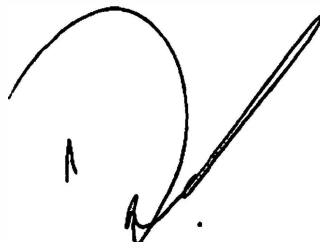
IV. Reservation of Rights

Batteries Plus reserves all rights available under the Broward County Procurement Code, including the right to supplement this protest with additional supporting documentation and argument as necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please confirm receipt of this protest and advise of any additional requirements, including any applicable filing fee or procedural steps.

Sincerely,

Ricky Ibarra

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricky Ibarra', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.



East Penn Manufacturing Co.
PO Box 147, Deka Road, Lyon Station, PA 19536-0147
Phone: 610 682 6361, Fax: 610 882 4781

www.dekabatteries.com

EPM to B+ Supply Confirmation

3/24/2026

To whom it may concern,

East Penn Manufacturing Co. confirms that we will make every reasonable effort to supply Batteries Plus locations servicing Broward County Bus, as long as we receive accurate monthly forecasts by part number and quantity for each location. With that information, we will work to keep the right inventory on hand and can support the quantities currently outlined. If orders exceed the forecast, we ask for at least two (2) weeks' advance notice. Without that notice, we may not be able to fulfill those additional quantities for that situation. Batteries Plus will remain the direct supplier to Broward County Bus, and this letter simply confirms our ability to support Batteries Plus when provided with the appropriate information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Fieger".

Dan Fieger
Account Executive - Retail Markets,
Automotive Batteries



East Penn Manufacturing Co.
102 Deka Road, Lyon Station, PA 19536
Cell Phone (631) 291-8145
Phone (610) 682-6361 Ext. 4319
DFieger@dekabatteries.com
<http://www.dekabatteries.com>



March 24, 2026

Mr. Gleason and Ms. Richards,

Letter of Support & Supply Capability

This letter is provided in support of Los Pasos, LLC d/b/a Batteries Plus, an authorized franchise operating within the Batteries Plus network in connection with Bid No. TRN213046432 for Bus Batteries (FTA).

Batteries Plus is a nationwide network of over 700 locations, representing more than \$600 million in annual system-wide revenue and significant purchasing volume across a broad range of battery products, including commercial and industrial applications. Through this scale, the network maintains established supplier relationships and purchasing power that support consistent product availability and competitive sourcing.

Ascent Battery Supply (ABS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Batteries Plus, serves as a centralized distribution partner supporting stores with inventory management and supplier coordination. ABS works directly with key manufacturing partners, including East Penn Manufacturing, to facilitate the supply of commercial and heavy-duty batteries, including those used in fleet and transit applications.

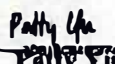
Through these established relationships, Los Pasos has access to a scalable supply chain network that includes local and regional distribution resources. This includes manufacturer-supported distribution infrastructure in South Florida, including proximity to distribution facilities in the Fort Lauderdale area, which supports efficient fulfillment and delivery of required battery inventory.

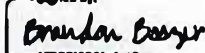
Batteries Plus and ABS have extensive experience supporting commercial and government customers, including transit-related operations and provide operational and supply chain support to Los Pasos in the successful execution of this contract.

We are confident in Los Pasos's ability to meet the performance, delivery, and service requirements associated with this solicitation and stand ready to provide the necessary operational and logistical support.

This letter is provided to describe the support and supply framework available to Los Pasos, LLC d/b/a Batteries Plus in connection with this solicitation.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Patty Yu
Director, DMM

Signed by:

Brandon Booser
Sr. Dir Gov and Industrial Sales

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS
QUOTATION REQUEST OR INVITATION TO BID
Bus Batteries (FTA)**

A. Scope

This open-end contract is for **Bus Batteries** for the Broward County Transportation Department and various other Broward County agencies that may have need of these services and/or products in accordance with the Specifications and Requirements.

B. Contract Type

Open-End/Indefinite Quantity Contracts. This solicitation is not for a definite quantity of goods or services and is for an open-end/indefinite quantity contract. The County shall purchase the guaranteed minimum quantity of goods or services (if any) stated in the solicitation but may exceed that minimum amount, and the Contractor shall provide all amounts ordered by the County, limited only by any maximum quantity stated in the solicitation. The County may issue purchase orders on this solicitation as and when required; issue a blanket purchase order for individual agencies; issue instructions for use of direct purchase orders by various County agencies; procure amounts above any stated guaranteed minimum quantity by any method from any other source(s); or do any combination of the foregoing. No delivery of goods or performance of services shall become due or be accepted without a written purchase order and delivery instruction by the County, unless otherwise expressly provided in the solicitation. Such order will contain the quantity, time of delivery, and other pertinent data. If the County requires delivery within a shorter period than the delivery time specified in the solicitation (if any), and if the Vendor is unable to deliver by that time at the contracted price, the County may obtain such delivery from other sources, without penalty or prejudice to the County, and such shall not be a violation of the contract.

There is no guaranteed minimum quantity of goods or services. Any quantities stated are estimates only.

Contract Term/Period: The initial contract period shall start on date of award, or upon expiration of the current contract **August 21, 2025**, whichever is later, and shall terminate **one 1-year** from that date. The Director of Purchasing may renew this contract for a **four (4) additional one 1-year** period subject to Vendor acceptance, Vendor satisfactory performance, and the Director of Purchasing's determination that renewal will be in the best interest of the County. Notification of intent to renew will be sent in advance of expiration date of this contract. The Vendor must complete delivery, and the County will receive delivery, on any orders issued by the County to the Vendor prior to the date of expiration.

C. Office of Economic and Small Business Requirements

This solicitation has the following **Disadvantage Business Enterprise Goal: 0%**. Vendors must follow the instructions included in the **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding Supplement** and submit all required forms and information as instructed.

This project is 100% funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, and is subject to the requirements of Title 49 CFR Part 26. Broward County has established an overall triennial DBE program goal of 7% for federally funded transit projects.

Broward County utilizes the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) overall DBE program goal of 7% for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assisted projects. In order for the County to receive credit for utilization of DBE firms on this project, participating firms must be certified according to USDOT requirements as a DBE.

D. Funding Requirements (ex. Grant, State, or Federal)

Federal Transportation Administration Requirements

The successful Vendor is required to complete the applicable forms found in **Federal Transit Administration Funding Supplement Requirements and Certification**.

FTA Buy America Certification: A bidder or offeror must submit to COUNTY the appropriate **Buy America Certification for Procurements of Steel, Iron, or Manufactured Products**, with all bids or proposals on FTA-funded Contracts, except those subject to a general waiver. Bids or offers that are not accompanied by a completed Buy America Certification for Procurements of Steel, Iron, or Manufactured Products will be rejected as non-responsive.

Minimum/Maximum Quantity:

The Minimum Annual Quantity for each bid item is considered zero (0). The Maximum Quantity listed for each bid item shall not be exceeded.

E. Specifications and Requirements

The **Specifications and Requirements** included apply to this solicitation. If the **Specifications and Requirements** reference a third party (i.e., manufacturer, applicator, subcontractor, etc.), the reference is to be construed as the Vendor through the third party.

The product offered by the Vendor must, on an overall basis, be equal or greater in quality or performance than the **Specifications and Requirements**. Broward County shall be the sole judge of what constitutes equal or greater in quality or performance. Submittals that do not comply with **Specifications and Requirements** are subject to rejection.

The Vendor should submit with their response photographs, drawings, current manufacturer's catalogues, or product literature on the items offered. If not submitted with their response, this information must be submitted within three calendar days after request by Broward County Purchasing Division. Literature should be clearly marked as to each item number. The Vendor's failure to submit the requested literature and/or catalogues may result in their bid being declared nonresponsive.

F. Requests for Approved Equals

A Vendor may submit a request for determination of approved equal status. Requests must be submitted on the **Request for Approved Equals** and delivered by email to the Purchasing Agent no later than **October 20, 2025, 5:00p.m.** Late requests will not be considered. The County's response to any such request will be issued by addendum.

G. Vendor Responsibilities

The Vendor will be responsible for the provision, installation (if applicable, per **Specifications and Requirements Bus Batteries (FTA)**), and performance of all equipment, materials, services, etc. offered in their submittal. The Vendor is not relieved of responsibility for the performance of all equipment furnished, or of ensuring timely delivery of materials, equipment, etc., even if the equipment or materials are not of their own manufacture.

The Vendor must **itself perform**, without subcontracting or other forms of outsourcing, work that constitutes at least **100%** percent of the total contract price.

H. Fiscal Year End

Not applicable to this solicitation.

I. Basis of Award

Award of this contract will be made to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder on a total bid price (sum of all items) basis. The County reserves the right to award on a group basis (if applicable), item by item basis or total bid price basis, whichever is deemed to be in the County's best interest, in accordance with General Conditions, Section B.7.

J. Multiple Awards

Not applicable to this solicitation.

K. Price Adjustment/Escalation

No price increases will be allowed during the initial contract period. For any renewal term, the Vendor may request a price increase in accordance with the Price Escalation Procedure below.

Price Escalation Procedure:

To seek a price increase, a Vendor must submit a written request to the County at least ninety (90) days prior to the renewal term or expiration of the fixed period. The Vendor must supply documentation to substantiate the requested increase. The request must include the proposed amount and effective date of the increase.

The Director of Purchasing may refuse to grant the requested price increase as not properly documented or excessive. If the Director of Purchasing refuses the requested price increase and the matter cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the County, the Vendor shall continue to perform under the contract at the existing contracted price(s) to the end of the then current term, including completing delivery on any orders placed with the Vendor prior to the end of the then current term. Failure to complete delivery shall be grounds for cause the Contractor to be suspended and/or debarred from doing business with the County pursuant to the Broward County Procurement Code Section 21.73, Authority to Debar or Suspend.

If the Director of Purchasing approves a price increase, the increase shall be no greater than (unless specifically approved otherwise by the Director of Purchasing), the difference of Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Producer Price Index (PPI) of the current period less CPI/PPI previous period, divided by CPI/PPI previous period, times 100 (only one index may be used in formula calculation). The CPI/PPi current period shall mean the most recent month for

the contract period index prior to Vendor's written request. The CPI/PPI previous period shall mean for the same month of the prior year. All indices shall be obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics. For example: Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers (Series ID CUURA320SA0) for the area of Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL (All Items), with a base period of 2020-22 = 100, and not seasonally adjusted.

The Purchasing Division will notify the using agencies and the Vendor in writing of the effective date of any approved price increase. If a request for price increase is approved, the new price(s) will apply only to the orders placed after the later of the date of the County's approval or the effective date proposed in the Vendor's request for a price increase; orders placed earlier will be invoiced at the unit price in effect at the time the order was placed.

Price De-Escalation:

If a supplier issues revisions, supplements, or replacements to the product lists, catalogs and/or price lists previously submitted to the County, any one of which reflects a decrease in the unit price of an item covered by the contract, the Vendor must notify the County of the price decrease within thirty (30) days of the notification from the supplier to the Vendor of the price decrease.

When the County receives notice of a price decrease of an item, the County may request the same reduction in price from the Vendor. The County shall make such request in writing. If agreed to by the Vendor, the decrease shall go into effect on the same day that the supplier of the item provides the decrease to the Vendor.

If the Vendor does not agree to the requested decrease, the Vendor must notify the County in writing no later than ten (10) business days after the County's request. If the Vendor fails to timely notify the County of its nonacceptance, then the Vendor shall be deemed to have approved the price decrease. If the Vendor timely notifies the County of its nonacceptance, then the County may, upon written notice to the Vendor, terminate the contract for cause.

L. Maintenance and Service Requirements

Not applicable to this solicitation.

M. Licensing Requirements

Not applicable to this solicitation.

N. Certification Requirements

Not applicable to this solicitation.

O. Permits and Fees

Not applicable to this solicitation.

P. Allowances

Not applicable to this solicitation.

Q. Public Bid Disclosure Act

Not applicable to this solicitation.

R. Recycling Preference

Not applicable to this solicitation.

S. Prevailing Wage Rates

Not applicable to this solicitation.

T. Liquidated Damages

Not applicable to this solicitation.

U. Payment

Refer to **Specifications and Requirements**.

V. Additional Information/Instructions

Not applicable to this solicitation.

Form Date 7/1/25