

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
**Procurement and Contracts Division**

Date Received

**NON-COMPETITIVE PURCHASE REQUEST JUSTIFICATION**

Required for all (non-emergency) sole source acquisitions in excess of \$5,000.00 and sole source service requests in excess of \$100,000.00.

This justification document consists of three (3) pages. All information must be provided and all questions must be answered. **Department Head approval is required.**

**Requesting Department Information**

Department:	Org Code:	
22-District Attorney	2200000	
Contact Name:	Subobject:	User Code:
Richard Pesce / Justene Cline	6042	
Telephone:	Fax:	
530-621-3884	530-295-2614	

**Required Supplier / Vendor Information**

Vendor / Supplier Name:	Vendor / Supplier Address:
Bitmindz	8583 Irvine Center Dr. Irvine, CA 92618
Contact Name:	
Manny Kressel	
Estimated Purchase Price/Contract Amount:	Vendor / Supplier Email Address:
19,995.00	sales@bitmindz.com
Telephone:	Fax:
949-978-6463	

Provide a brief description of the request, including all goods and/or services the vendor/supplier will provide and supporting exemption reference from Board Policy C-17 - Procurement Policy:

This request is for the acquisition of a specialized forensic computer workstation, specifically an RCKTBX Processing Engine from BitMindz. The core goods being procured are the high-performance hardware components of the RCKTBX system itself, meticulously assembled and configured to function as a dedicated forensic workstation with the fastest processing speeds available. This includes cutting-edge processors, high-speed storage solutions like NVMe drives and SSDs, ample RAM, powerful graphics processing units, and robust cooling and power systems, all integrated within a purpose-built chassis. Beyond the hardware, BitMindz provides specialized services inherent in the procurement of this system. This includes the meticulous design, fine-tuning, and rigorous testing of each RCKTBX unit to ensure optimal performance and reliability for demanding forensic workloads. Furthermore, the acquisition implicitly includes access to BitMindz's expert technical support, specifically tailored to the forensic domain, ensuring ongoing system maintenance and prompt resolution of any technical issues that may arise. In essence, BitMindz is providing a complete, purpose-built forensic computing solution, encompassing both the specialized hardware and the critical support services necessary for effective digital evidence processing. C-17 exemption request: 3.4.2 (a) technological, specialized, unique character of the good.

Department Head:

VRP  
VRP (Feb 26, 2025 15:22 PST)

Signature

RP  
rp

Purchasing Agent:

Michele Weiner  
Michele Weiner (Apr 2, 2025 08:26 PST)

Signature

Board of Supervisors:

Date:

Item:

P&C Assignment:

Assigned To:

Date:

**A. The good/service requested is restricted to one supplier for the reason stated below:**

1. Why is the acquisition restricted to this goods/services supplier? (Explain why the acquisition cannot be competitively sourced. Explain how the supplier is the only source for the acquisition.)

Justifying a sole-source acquisition for a specialized forensic computer from BitMindz hinges on their unique capabilities and the specific needs of our agency. BitMindz is not merely a computer vendor; they are a specialized provider of forensic workstations specifically designed for and proven within the law enforcement and forensic communities. Their RCKTBX systems are not mass-produced commodity items, but rather meticulously crafted and fine-tuned "Processing Engines" built upon years of experience in digital forensics. The company's founder, Manny Kressel, is a retired law enforcement officer and certified forensic expert who personally designs and tests these systems to achieve unparalleled processing speeds and reliability in forensic applications. Manny was the builder of our actual Talino system but has since left Sumuri and created his own company, Bitmindz. Since he left, the Sumuri systems have had major problems as experienced by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. Additionally, the Bitmindz systems are benchmarked at much higher speeds than any other known forensic system. It all comes down to the speed of processing. For that reason, a comparison is very difficult to find. Sumuri doesn't offer the processor that Bitmindz does, so it can't compare. Even then, an inferior system from them is over \$30,000. Beyond just hardware, BitMindz emphasizes a deep understanding of the forensic workflow and the critical demands placed upon examiners. Their commitment to using the "best components," down to the smallest detail, translates directly into reduced downtime and increased efficiency, crucial in time-sensitive investigations. In essence, BitMindz offers not just a computer, but a purpose-built forensic solution backed by deep domain expertise, a history of innovation, and a proven track record of meeting the demanding needs of the forensic community, making them the sole logical source for this specialized acquisition.

2. Provide the background of events leading to this acquisition.

The need to acquire a specialized forensic computer from BitMindz stems directly from the end-of-life status of our current system, a Sumuri Talino workstation purchased nearly six years ago. This existing forensic workstation, critical to our agency's operations, is no longer capable of meeting the increasing demands of modern digital investigations. Its age has resulted in performance bottlenecks and potential unreliability, hindering our ability to efficiently process digital evidence. Recognizing this critical deficiency, we initiated a review of potential replacement options. Given the highly specialized nature of forensic computing, requiring robust processing power, reliability, and purpose-built features for digital evidence analysis, we sought a vendor with proven expertise in this domain. These systems have consistently delivered the necessary performance and reliability required for demanding forensic workloads. BitMindz, a California-based company, has established a reputation for crafting high-quality, specialized forensic workstations like their RCKTBX line, which are designed and built by professionals with direct experience in law enforcement and digital forensics. BitMindz's recognized expertise in the field, leads us to this acquisition to ensure continuity of operations and maintain our agency's capacity to effectively conduct digital forensic examinations with a reliable, high-performance system tailored to our specific needs.

3. Describe the uniqueness of the acquisition. (Why was the goods/services supplier chosen?)

The uniqueness of this acquisition lies in the highly specialized nature of forensic computing and BitMindz's unparalleled position as a provider in this niche. BitMindz was not chosen simply as a supplier of computers, but as a specialized partner uniquely equipped to deliver a purpose-built forensic solution. The selection of BitMindz is rooted in their deep domain expertise, stemming from the founder's own background as a law enforcement officer and forensic examiner. This intimate understanding of the forensic process permeates their company and product design. Their RCKTBX workstations are not generic high-performance machines, but rather specifically engineered "Processing Engines" meticulously crafted to address the demanding requirements of digital evidence analysis. BitMindz distinguishes itself by consistently pioneering and integrating cutting-edge technologies to maximize processing speeds and minimize examiner downtime, crucial factors in time-sensitive investigations. In essence, BitMindz's unique blend of forensic domain expertise, specialized product design, commitment to innovation, and proven performance history makes them the unambiguous choice to fulfill our need for a specialized forensic computer, ensuring we acquire not just hardware, but a tailored solution from a trusted and uniquely qualified provider.

4. What are the consequences of not purchasing the goods/services or contracting with the proposed supplier?

Failing to acquire a specialized forensic computer from BitMindz or contract with this proven supplier would carry significant negative consequences for our agency's operational effectiveness and ability to conduct timely and thorough digital investigations. Firstly, not purchasing a replacement for our end-of-life system would lead to critical operational disruptions as our current workstation becomes increasingly unreliable and prone to failure, potentially halting forensic examinations altogether and creating case backlogs. Secondly, choosing an alternative supplier lacking BitMindz's specialized expertise and proven track record in forensic computing would likely result in acquiring a system with suboptimal performance. This could manifest as slower processing speeds, increased downtime due to less reliable components, and ultimately, reduced efficiency in evidence analysis. Such performance deficits would directly impede our ability to keep pace with increasing digital evidence volumes and potentially delay critical investigations. Furthermore, deviating from a proven vendor like BitMindz introduces unnecessary risk. Untested systems or vendors unfamiliar with the nuances of forensic workflows may lead to unforeseen technical issues, compatibility problems with forensic software, and inadequate technical support. This stands in stark contrast to BitMindz's established reliability and specialized customer service, rooted in their deep understanding of the forensic domain. In conclusion, forgoing acquisition from BitMindz risks significant operational disruptions, diminished efficiency, increased risk of system failure, and a departure from a solution specifically designed to meet the demanding requirements of digital forensic examinations.

5. What market research was conducted to substantiate no competition, including the evaluation of other items or service providers? (Provide a narrative of your efforts to identify other similar or appropriate goods/services, including a summary of how the department concluded that such alternatives are either inappropriate or unavailable. The name and addresses of suppliers contacted and the reasons for not considering them must be included OR an explanation of why the survey or effort to identify other goods/services was not performed.)

Given the highly specialized requirements for a forensic computer workstation tailored to meet the demanding workloads of digital evidence analysis, traditional market research for broadly comparable goods and services was deemed impractical and ultimately unnecessary. Our agency's need is not for a general-purpose high-performance computer, but for a purpose-built forensic "Processing Engine" specifically designed, configured, and rigorously tested for digital forensic applications. A comprehensive survey of generic computer vendors or even those specializing in high-performance systems would not yield truly comparable alternatives. BitMindz, with its founder's background in law enforcement and forensic examination, has uniquely positioned itself to understand and address the specific hardware and software requirements of forensic workflows. Their RCKTBX systems are not mass-produced but meticulously crafted and fine-tuned, incorporating specialized components and configurations optimized for forensic processing. This reliable performance in our demanding forensic environment far outweighs the hypothetical benefits of exploring less specialized vendors with inferior product performance. Therefore, while a formal market survey for generic computers was not conducted, our agency's deep understanding of our specialized needs and BitMindz's unique and proven expertise in the forensic computing domain definitively concludes that no truly comparable alternatives exist, justifying the sole-source acquisition from BitMindz as the only supplier capable of meeting our critical requirements at this time.

## B. Price Analysis:

1. How was the price offered determined to be fair and reasonable? (Explain what basis was used for comparison and include cost analysis as applicable.)

The determination that the offered price from BitMindz is fair and reasonable is based on a multi-faceted approach, primarily leveraging historical pricing data and a component-level value assessment, as direct competitive bids for this highly specialized system are not obtainable. Firstly, we have direct precedent through our agency's prior purchases from BitMindz. We are able to compare the current quotation to previous invoices for similar, albeit older generation, RCKTBX forensic workstations. While accounting for expected increases due to technological advancements and inflation over time, the current price remains consistent with historical trends for comparable systems from this vendor. This established pricing history with BitMindz provides a strong baseline for reasonableness. Secondly, while a detailed cost analysis breakdown is not publicly available for proprietary system designs like the RCKTBX, we can conduct a component-level value assessment. BitMindz emphasizes the use of "best-in-class" components, including high-performance CPUs, GPUs, NVMe drives, and robust power supplies. Researching the market prices for these individual, high-end components indicates that the aggregate cost of such premium parts aligns with the overall system price being quoted. This suggests that the price reflects the quality and caliber of components integrated into the RCKTBX. Furthermore, the price must be considered in the context of the specialized nature of the system and the inherent value proposition. BitMindz is not offering a commodity computer, but a purpose-built forensic solution designed to minimize downtime, maximize processing efficiency, and provide expert support – factors that contribute significantly to long-term value and operational cost savings by reducing examiner time and case backlogs. In conclusion, while a direct price comparison against truly equivalent systems is not feasible due to the unique specialization of BitMindz, the combination of historical pricing consistency and component-level value assessment provides a robust basis for determining the offered price to be fair and reasonable for this specialized forensic workstation.

2. Describe any cost savings or avoidance realized (one-time or ongoing) by acquiring the goods/services from this supplier.

Acquiring the specialized forensic computer from BitMindz, despite potentially a higher upfront cost compared to generic systems, is projected to realize both one-time and ongoing cost savings and avoidances that justify the sole-source acquisition. One of the most significant areas of cost avoidance is reduced downtime and increased examiner productivity. BitMindz's emphasis on high-quality components and meticulous construction directly translates to a more reliable system. Minimized downtime means forensic examiners can spend more time processing cases and less time dealing with technical issues, thus avoiding costly backlogs and potential delays in investigations. Furthermore, the faster processing speeds offered by the RCKTBX systems, engineered specifically for forensic workloads, translate directly to time savings per case. This increased efficiency allows our agency to process more cases with the same resources, effectively avoiding the need for additional personnel or overtime costs to manage increasing digital evidence volumes. Ongoing cost savings will also be realized through reduced technical support needs. BitMindz highlights the proactive design of their systems to minimize problems and the availability of expert, forensic-domain-aware support when needed. This specialized support ensures faster resolution of any issues, further minimizing downtime and avoiding potentially lengthy and expensive troubleshooting processes with generic IT support. Finally, by investing in a proven, reliable, and high-performance system from BitMindz, we mitigate the significant risks and potential costs associated with system failure, data loss, and inadequate processing capabilities that could arise from choosing a less reliable vendor. In summary, the long-term cost savings and risk avoidance associated with BitMindz's reliability, performance, specialized support, and forensic domain expertise represent a significant value proposition and justify the sole-source acquisition as a fiscally responsible decision.

# BITMINDZ, LLC

8583 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, CA 92618  
949-978-6463 | 678-429-9844 | [operations@bitmindz.com](mailto:operations@bitmindz.com)



March 27, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as a sole source notification regarding the BitMindz Processing Engine and Forensic Workstations. BitMindz, LLC is a U.S.-based company producing high-end data processing engines and forensic workstations. We have been designing and building forensic systems for over twenty-five years, and our primary customers are state & local law enforcement, the federal government, and the U.S. Military. With a law enforcement and computer forensics background, we design and engineer systems geared toward high input/output calculations and quickly processing data. Our systems are tested with various software packages to provide real-world results and validate known processing times with each software manufacturer.

The BitMindz system is designed and built on a proprietary platform, specifically designed, tested, and engineered by BitMindz, LLC. It is proprietary in nature and only available as a sole source. Specific, proprietary components are implemented in the system's design and are unavailable from any other source. We are trademarked through the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and our technologies are considered Intellectual Property. This includes but is not limited to the computer chassis, components within the chassis, and front panel bays, which are proprietary to the BitMindz line of computers. BitMindz, LLC is the sole proprietor of said technology. BitMindz, LLC does not authorize any other organizations or companies to assemble similar systems without expressed consent from BitMindz, LLC, in Irvine, CA. We are the sole distributor of the BitMindz RCKTBX system.

Our systems come with a three (3) year warranty. Further, we understand that storage and memory devices can contain sensitive data; as part of our warranty, we do not require customers to return these devices. Any questions regarding this documentation can be sent directly to [operations@bitmindz.com](mailto:operations@bitmindz.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Kressel".

Emanuel "Manny" Kressel  
Chief Executive Officer & Founder

**BitMindz Forensic Solutions**

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Irvine, CA 92618

+19499786463

sales@bitmindz.com

www.bitmindz.com



## QUOTE

**ADDRESS**

John Robertson  
El Dorado County District  
Attorney's Office  
778 Pacific Street  
Placerville, CA 95567  
e: john.robertson@edcda.us; t:  
530-621-6540

**SHIP TO**

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778 Pacific Street  
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t: 530-621-6540

**QUOTE # 1918****DATE 01/31/2025****EXPIRATION DATE 04/30/2025**

PART #/DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
<b>BZ-X9a</b> BitMindz RCKTBX X9a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– AMD Ryzen Threadripper PRO 7985WX, 64-Core / 128-Thread Desktop Processor with a Turbo frequency of 5.1GHz</li><li>– 256GB DDR5 4800 MHz ECC RAM (4 x 64GB)</li><li>– One (1) 4TB M.2 PCIe NVMe SSD for the Operating System</li><li>– One (1) 2TB M.2 PCIe NVMe SSD for Temp/Cache</li><li>– One (1) 8TB M.2 PCIe NVMe SSD for Case Management</li><li>– One (1) 8TB SSD in Rapid Mode for Processing</li><li>– Four (4) 18TB Enterprise Class HDD for Storage</li><li>– One (1) 12Gb/s Dedicated RAID Controller</li><li>– One (1) RTX a5000 (Potentially upgraded to an RTX 5080 or 5090 upon availability)</li><li>– One (1) 2.5" &amp; 3.5" True Hot-Swap Bay</li><li>– One (1) USB 3.2 Gen.2 Front Panel with 2x USB Type-C; 2x USB Type-A</li><li>– One (1) USB. 3.0 Ten (10) Port Hub</li><li>– One (1) Blu-Ray Burner with M-Disc Capability and BDXL Capacity (128GB Disc)</li><li>– One (1) BitMindz / Logicube WriteProtect Bay – Custom Designed for BitMindz and supports IDE, SATA, SAS, USB, FireWire, and PCIe SSDs (M.2 SATA/AHCI/NVMe), PCIe and mini-PCIe cards with Optional Adapters</li><li>– One (1) Forensic Card Reader for Media</li><li>– One (1) 1600W Power Supply Unit</li><li>– One (1) Advanced Cooling for the CPU</li><li>– Windows 11 Professional 64-Bit</li><li>– Three (3) Year Warranty on Entire System</li></ul>	1	19,995.00	19,995.00

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Please review the attached quote. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

TOTAL

**\$19,995.00**

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Manny Kressel  
BitMindz  
Tel 949.978.6463  
sales@bitmindz.com  
www.bitmindz.com

Accepted By

Accepted Date