




Office of the Sheriff
Clarence F. Birkhead, Sheriff

To: County Of Durham Purchasing

From: Chief Deputy A. Prignano (Detention Services) 

Ref: Robotic Platform (General Purpose)

Date: July 25, 2019

The Durham County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Devices Unit currently utilizes 2 robotic platforms. The original platform the (EOD Performance Vanguard II) was purchased in 2003 and is considered a general purpose platform capable of performing low level general purpose I.E.D. (Improvised Explosive Device) response. The other platform (Remotec F6A) is a larger remote vehicle capable of performing advanced tasks in regards to explosive mitigation. The F6A, being a larger platform cannot fulfil some general purpose missions due to its size and limited abilities entering building and other structures. A smaller platform such as the Vanguard II, fulfills these tasks due to its smaller size and reduced footprint when operating in close quarters and performing missions in conjunction with tactical operations. The Vanguard II has outdated technology, basic functionality that does not meet current standards and most of all, no longer functions as designed due to age and usage. The replacement of this particular platform is long overdue and has reduced the Sheriff's Office capabilities for explosive mitigation, tactical response and hostage negotiations.

As we researched a replacement for the Vanguard II, we concentrated on cost, versatility of the platform to meet current needs and a proven system utilized within the tactical response community. After reviewing several vendors, 3 were selected to conduct an onsite display of their platforms:

- Northrop Grumman (Remotec) "Titus Robotic Platform"
- ICOR "Mini-Caliber Robotic Platform"
- Federal Resources "510 PackBot Robotic Platform"

After a comprehensive review of all platforms the ICOR Mini-Caliber was chosen as the replacement, although this platform is considerably lower in cost, it meets all the requirements and standards to fulfill our tactical missions. Both the Northrop Grumman and Federal Recourses met the standards as well; however, these platforms are designed to function as one system having some of the same functionalities as the Remotec F6A. With the F6A currently in our inventory, purchasing platforms such as the Titus or PackBot is not fiscally sound.

