

Non-Competitive Contract with Bloomberg Finance LP for the Provision of Continued Leasing Proprietary Software and Data Services

Date: June 30, 2026

To: General Government Committee

From: Interim Director, Capital Markets and Chief Procurement Officer

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request authority to enter into a non-competitive contract with Bloomberg Finance LP ("Bloomberg"), under the same terms and conditions, for the continued licensing of proprietary software and data services for a one (1) year period commencing from January 8, 2027 to January 7, 2028 with the option to renew for three (3) additional one (1) year periods in the amount of \$392,400 USD net of all applicable taxes and charges (\$399,306 USD net of HST recoveries). The software and data subscription system is used to monitor and analyze real-time financial market data, news, real-time bond pricing quotes, and to obtain forecasts and surveys. Since 1996, staff has relied on the functionalities of Bloomberg to issue debentures, make investment decisions, create long-term capital financing plans, and use information obtained from this system to prudently assist with financial matters of the City.

A non-competitive procurement may be undertaken where both the proposed procurement and supplier can be justified in good faith based on an exception set out in Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 195, Procurement. This procurement will be proceeding under the exception related to Exclusive Rights, where Bloomberg and the City have determined in good faith that both the proposed procurement and the selected supplier, along with the terms and conditions of the contract, are beneficial to the City (Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 195, Procurement, Section 7.1.C).

City Council approval is required in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 195-Procurement, where the current request exceeds the Chief Procurement Officer's authority of the cumulative five (5) year commitment for each supplier, under Article 7, Section 195-7.3 (D) of the Procurement By-Law, or exceeds the threshold of \$500,000 net of HST allowed under staff authority as per the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 71- Financial Control, Section 71-11A.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Interim Director, Capital Markets and the Chief Procurement Officer recommend that:

1. City Council grant authority to the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to renew the non-competitive contract, in accordance with Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 195, Procurement, Section 7.1.C, with Bloomberg Finance LP for the continued leasing of proprietary software, data services, and network access/routers at a cost estimated not to exceed \$392,400 USD net of all applicable taxes and charges (\$399,306 USD net of HST recoveries) for a one (1)-year period commencing from January 8, 2027 to January 7, 2028, with the option to renew for three (3) additional one (1)-year periods, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total potential value of the non-competitive contract identified in this report is estimated to be \$399,306 USD net of HST recoveries (\$559,029 CAD net of HST recoveries). On average, the contract is estimated to cost approximately \$137,340 CAD net of all applicable taxes and charges (\$139,757 CAD net of HST recoveries) per year over four years. The Operating Budget for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer includes base annual funding to support the lease of Bloomberg software and data services, in the amount of \$133,090 CAD net of HST recoveries.

Should the City of Toronto choose to exercise its options to renew for three (3) additional separate one (1)-year periods, then the appropriate additional funding will be included in the Operating Budget Submissions of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for years 2028 through 2031 as required. Cost estimates are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Estimated Costs for 4-year Bloomberg Contract

Year	Cost Centre/ WBS	Cost Element	Cost Estimate in USD* (Net of HST Recoveries)	Cost Estimate in CAD** (Net of HST Recoveries)
January 8, 2027 - January 7, 2028	FS0107	4515	\$95,064 USD	\$133,090 CAD
Option Year 1: January 8, 2028 - January 7, 2029	FS0107	4515	\$95,064 USD	\$133,090 CAD

Year	Cost Centre/ WBS	Cost Element	Cost Estimate in USD* (Net of HST Recoveries)	Cost Estimate in CAD** (Net of HST Recoveries)
Option Year 2: January 8, 2029 - January 7, 2030	FS0107	4515	\$104,589 USD	\$146,424 CAD
Option Year 3: January 8, 2030 - January 7, 2031	FS0107	4515	\$104,589 USD	\$146,424 CAD
Total			\$399,306 USD	\$559,029 CAD

* All cost estimates are based on the quote supplied by Bloomberg L.P.

** Exchange rate: 1 \$USD = 1.40 \$CAD; A conservative estimate due to recent volatility.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On August 25, 26, and 27, 2010, City Council granted the authority under GM33.34 to award a sole source contract (not to exceed \$264,448 USD) to Bloomberg for leasing proprietary software, data services and computer terminals for a period of four years from January 4, 2011 to January 4, 2015.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2010.GM33.34>

On August 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2014, City Council granted the authority under GM33.22 to award a sole source contract (not to exceed \$345,678.72 USD net of HST recoveries) to Bloomberg Finance LP for the provision of leasing proprietary software and data services for a period of four years from January 5, 2015 to January 4, 2019.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.GM32.22>

On June 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2018, City Council granted the authority under GM28.13 to award a non-competitive contract (not to exceed \$307,900 USD net of HST recoveries) to Bloomberg Finance LP for the continued leasing of proprietary software, data services, and network access/routers for a period of four years from January 8, 2019 to January 7, 2023.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.GM28.13>

On June 15 and 16, 2022, City Council granted the authority under GL31.8 to award a non-competitive contract (not to exceed \$303,367 USD) to Bloomberg Finance LP for the continued leasing of proprietary software, data services, and network access / routers for a period of four years from January 8, 2023 to January 7, 2027.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.GL31.8>

COMMENTS

The Bloomberg Terminal is an all-in-one computer software and data subscription system provided by the financial data supplier Bloomberg L.P. that enables access to the proprietary Bloomberg Professional ("Bloomberg") service. Staff use the software to monitor and analyze real-time financial market data, news, real-time bond pricing quotes, and to obtain various forecasts and surveys (e.g. economics, interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and commodity prices) to aid in the City's investment, financing, and budgeting decisions. Bloomberg is considered the industry standard by the global financial community and is also being used by the City's peers such as the Ontario Financing Authority, Region of York, Region of Peel, Region of Halton, City of Edmonton, City of Calgary, City of Vancouver, City of Montreal, and is also used by all major investment dealers in Canada. The City's competitiveness could be compromised without access to the timely information and communication services that the Bloomberg service provides. The Bloomberg service ensures that the City's treasury, investment, and financing operations run effectively and efficiently.

Since 1996, staff has relied on the indispensable functionalities of Bloomberg to make investment decisions, issue debt, create long-term capital financing plans, and use information obtained from Bloomberg to assist with other financial matters of the City. For example, staff use Bloomberg for the following:

- Interest rate, foreign exchange, economic and commodity price forecasts, mainly for investment and debt issuance purposes at Capital Markets. These forecasts are required by many other City's divisions and pension consultants for various purposes;
- Querying of multiple dealers for best real-time bid/offer prices for security offerings;
- Referencing real-time interest rate information for debt issuance pricing;
- Measurement and reporting on investment fund performance and metrics;
- Monitoring investment fund compliance including minimum credit rating quality;
- Sophisticated analytical tools for portfolio stress testing and scenario analysis; and
- Credit rating information and other reports and data points (such as weekly fuel price quotes) are shared with other divisions to evaluate risk and make important financial decisions.

Staff rely heavily on Bloomberg as a key source of information and analysis required for investment and debt issuance decisions. Under the Council approved investment policy, staff require access to the Bloomberg service to operationally oversee and manage \$3 billion of the City's short-term funds, monitor and implement directives from the Toronto Investment Board for the City's \$10 billion investment portfolios, and oversee the work of the investment managers, custodians, and consultants. In addition, staff require the Bloomberg service to implement the City's annual debt issuance program with a \$2 billion annual borrowing authority and to administer a debt portfolio of close to \$13 billion. These essential functions require the Bloomberg service to operate effectively.

Although other financial data systems exist in the market, such as Thomson Reuters, Bloomberg combines all the necessary services into one comprehensive proprietary system. Much of Bloomberg's technology is proprietary and protected by patents.

The following table shows examples of Bloomberg's patents:

U.S. Patent Number	Title
8799140	Fixed income market model system
8788397	System and method for trading financial instruments based on undisclosed values
7774247	Computer trading on interests
7447654	Computer trading of financial interests
8694399	Pricing mortgage-backed securities
8676679	Counterparty credit limits
8504483	Electronic trading system supporting anonymous negotiation and indications of interest
8099352	System and method for trading financial instruments based on undisclosed values

Renewal of this service is required for continued access to Bloomberg services and minimal disruption to the City's operations. Bloomberg offers an all-in-one platform for proprietary financial data, information, and communication services that is integrated in real-time with global financial markets. This platform is an essential tool for gathering and analyzing information as well as making decisions for investment and debt management. Only this supplier can provide such a comprehensive suite of services due to proprietary reasons.

The agreement will be renewed under the same terms and conditions as the existing agreement.

The Fair Wage Office has reported that Bloomberg has indicated that it has reviewed and understands the Fair Wage Policy and Labour Trades requirements and has agreed to comply fully.

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SIGNATURE

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