



ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

5/29/2025

TO: Terrence D. McCracken – Secretary to the Authority

FROM: Lavonya C. Lester – Director of Administration *LCL*

SUBJECT: Sole Source Purchase -Approval Request for \$34,770 - Plug Hug Hydrant Cleaner

Commissioners, it has been brought to the attention of Administration and Central Purchasing that there is a need to purchase a piece of equipment that will be used to descale and clean the fire hydrants across the ECWA footprint. This piece of equipment called a “Plug Hug” will aid in the maintenance and proper painting preparation for the hydrants. This is done by descaling, cleaning debris and rust from the fire hydrants. This is a proprietary item that is patented and cannot be purchased from any other supplier. There are three pieces of equipment that will be needed. The Plug Hug and two mounts. These three items will be used in conjunction with a skid steer or backhoe to operate and access all the hydrants. The cost is anticipated to be \$34,770 and this includes the equipment and mounts required to run this equipment.

The administration team is requesting approval to purchase this piece of equipment. The justification form, quote and sole source letter are attached.

Thank you.

Budget Information:

Unit 1090 – Capital# 101812 – Transportation & Auto Equipment

**ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
AUTHORIZATION FORM
For Approval/Execution of Board Meeting Documents**

Document Name: _____ **Project No.:** _____

Description: _____

Item Description:

Choose one:

Other: _____

Action Requested:

Choose one:

Other: _____

Approvals Required:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Chief Financial Officer _____ Date: 6/2/2025

Chief Operating Officer _____ Date: 6/2/2025

Claims Rep. – Risk Manager _____ Date: 6/2/2025

Comptroller _____ Date: _____

Director of Administration _____ Date: 05/30/2025

Director of Distribution _____ Date: _____

Director of Human Resources _____ Date: _____

Director of IT _____ Date: _____

Director of Production _____ Date: _____

Director of Water Quality _____ Date: _____

Executive Engineer _____ Date: 5/30/2025

General Counsel (Legal) _____ Date: 5/30/2025

Other: _____ Date: _____

APPROVED FOR BOARD RESOLUTION:

Secretary to the Authority _____ Date: 6/2/2025

Remarks: _____

Resolution Date: _____ **Item No:** _____



The Plug Hug, LLC
PO Box 386
Bellville, OH 44813-9998

May 27, 2025

THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System Sole Source Vendor Verification

UNITED STATES Patent and Trademark Office Patent 61/648300, CANADIAN Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) Patent 2,873,523 and UNITED STATES Internal Revenue Service EIN 81-1609774.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm, for quoting and purchasing activities, that Terry Byrne is the sole inventor, manufacturer, distributor and servicer of THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System through The Plug Hug, LLC with offices and manufacturing located in Lexington, Ohio.

THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System provides specific, unique and one-of-a-kind design and functionality that has not been previously known to the marketplace and there are no comparative competitive products.

THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System enables the device operator to descale, clean and clear debris from fire hydrants for painting preparation and for the removal of snow and ice from snow covered and plowed under fire hydrants ensuring Firefighter access to fire hydrants during public safety emergencies.

THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System eliminates hand, eye and back injuries associated with "hands-on" fire hydrant cleaning and descaling methods for painting preparation and snow removal.

THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System replaces the costly, cumbersome and unsafe methods of fire hydrant paint removal, known to be: toxic solvents, sand/abrasive blasting, pressure washing, hand held electric grinders/wire whips and manual wire brushes.

THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System replaces the inefficient, ad hoc and high risk public safety method of snow and ice removal from fire hydrants, known to be: manual hand shoveling by District/Department Employees, First Responders, Home Owners and Business Owners.

THE PLUG HUG Fire Hydrant Cleaning System provides risk mitigation and financial value by ensuring operational readiness and cost reductions, as a dual use device, for maintaining fire hydrants within the responsible District/Departments system.

WWW.THEPLUGHUG.COM



P.O. Box 386
Bellville, OH, USA
(419-564-9809) or terrybyrne@theplughug.com
www.theplughug.com

QUOTATION

Quote Number: 25-ECWA-052725_a

Quote Date: May 27, 2025

Quoted To: Erie County Water

Erie County Water Authority
295 Main St
Room 350
Buffalo, NY 14203-2494
USA

Thank You for the Opportunity to Quote!

Customer ID	Valid for:	Payment Terms	INCOTERM- EXW
Erie County Water	30 Days	Net due on receipt of invoice	MAPCo, LEXINGTON, OH USA

Quantity	UOM	Item ID / Part #	Description	Unit Price (USD)	Total (USD)
1.00	EACH	PH-300D	Descaling Plug Hug - Black	18,500.0000	18,500.00
			2" Universal Hex Receiver		
1.00	EACH	PH-MC	Universal Skidsteer Quick Attach Mount	5,895.0000	5,895.00
1.00			CAT Rubber Tire Backhoe Mount	9,875.0000	9,875.00
1.00	<Each>	Freight	Freight	500.0000	500.00
			Lead time		
			- Descaling Unit = 5-7 Days		
			- Backhoe mount - up to 30 Days ARO if not in stock		

Please direct ALL inquiries to:

Phone: (419) 564-9809

Email: terrybyrne@theplughug.com

TOTAL AMOUNT (USD) 34,770.00

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION FORM

Requisition Item: The Plus Hug Fire Hydrant Cleaning System

Purchase Order or Master Purchase Order Number: AML25-0199

Prior Purchase Order or Master Purchase Order Number (if item has been approved previously): _____

1. Please describe the item and its function: The Plug Hug enables the device operator to descale, clean and clear debris from fire hydrants for painting preparation and for the removal of snow and ice from snow covered and plowed under fire hydrants.

2. This is a sole source* because:

- ☒ Sole provider of a licensed or patented good or service.
- ☐ Sole provider of items that are compatible with existing equipment, inventory, systems, programs or services.
- ☐ Sole provider of goods and services for which the Authority has established a standard**.
- ☐ Sole provider of factory-authorized warranty service.
- ☐ Vendor/distributor is a holder of a used item that would represent good value and is advantageous to the Authority (please attach information on market price survey, availability, etc.).
- ☐ Sole provider of goods or services that will meet the specialized needs of the Authority or perform the intended function (please detail below or in an attachment).

3. What necessary features does this vendor provide which are not available from other vendors? Be specific.
Patented and trademarked cleaning system

4. What steps were taken to verify that these features are not available elsewhere?

- ☒ Verification from manufacturer of sole source attached (current year).
- ☐ Other brands/manufacturers were examined (please list phone numbers and names and explain why these were not suitable).
- ☐ Other vendors were contacted (please list phone numbers and names and explain why these were not suitable).

SUBMIT TO DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION FOR APPROVAL

Buyer's Signature: John M. Catanzaro
Buyer's Name: John M. Catanzaro

Date: 5-27-2025

Approved: Garrett J. Steer
Director of Administration

Date: 5/29/2025

* Sole Source: Only one vendor possesses the unique and singularly available capability to meet the requirement of the solicitation.

** Procurement of items for which the Authority has established a standard by designating a brand or manufacturer or by pre-approving via a testing, shall be competitively bid if there is more than one vendor of the item.