



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

January 8, 2014

Ms. Sharon Alexander
Associate General Counsel
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

OR2014-00484

Dear Ms. Alexander:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 510397.

The Texas Department of Transportation (the "department") received a request for the trade-in values submitted by the respondents of solicitation number B442013032555000. Although you take no position as to whether the requested information is excepted under the Act, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Austin Ribbon and Computer ("ARC"), SHI Government Solution ("SHI"), and Summus Industries, Inc. ("Summus"). Accordingly, you state you notified these third parties of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the information at issue should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from ARC, SHI, or Summus explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude ARC, SHI, or Summus have protected proprietary

interests in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the department may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest ARC, SHI, or Summus may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the submitted information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Paige Thompson
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PT/dls

Ref: ID# 510397

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Austin Ribbon and Computer
9211 Waterford Centre Boulevard, Suite 202
Austin, Texas 78758
(w/o enclosures)

SHI Government Solution
1301 South Mopac Expressway, Suite 375
Austin, Texas 78746-6904
(w/o enclosures)

Summus Industries, Inc.
245 Commerce Green Boulevard, Suite 155
Sugar Land, Texas 77478-3798
(w/o enclosures)