

COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

Item 8(a) – Juniper Network Switch Refresh



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To: California State Lottery Commission

From: Harjinder K. Shergill Chima - *HKC*
Director

Prepared by: Chris Lopez, Deputy Director
Information Technology Services Division

Subject: **Item 8(a) – Juniper Network Switch Refresh**

ISSUE

The California State Lottery (Lottery) seeks Commission approval to purchase new Juniper core network switches with a three-year support agreement. This procurement will refresh existing switches that are approaching end of life. The total agreement amount is \$ 372,664.78.

BACKGROUND

The Lottery network infrastructure is essential to conducting Lottery business operations. The Juniper core network switches are a critical component of this infrastructure. These switches are responsible for routing all internal and external network traffic, including connectivity to essential systems such as the gaming platform, pick 'n pack, draw operations, district offices, distribution centers, Brightstar, Office 365, and internet-based services.

The current core network switches have been in service since 2018 and are approaching their official end-of-life (EOL) date. After this date, the manufacturer will cease providing hardware support, software updates, security patches, and technical assistance. Continued reliance on unsupported infrastructure introduces significant operational risks, including hardware failure, security vulnerabilities, and prolonged service disruptions.

DISCUSSION

The Lottery currently uses two Juniper E9208 core network switches to control and route all internal and external network traffic. These devices are approaching EOL, which is set for March 31, 2027. While they are still functional, they are over 9 years old and were not designed to support newer, evolving network communication technologies and increasing operational demands for faster network communications. Continued reliance on these legacy devices introduces increasing risks, including performance bottlenecks, lack of vendor support, and potential security vulnerabilities.

To address these challenges, the Lottery recommends replacing the existing core switches with Juniper QFX5700 models. This upgrade represents a strategic investment in the Lottery's long-term network infrastructure. The QFX5700 platform is purpose-built for high-performance core and

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data center environments, offering significantly improved throughput, port density, and automation capabilities. These switches support high-speed interfaces, enabling the Lottery to scale

bandwidth capacity in line with anticipated growth in digital services, cloud adoption, and data-driven operations. They will be deployed as a pair to maintain high-availability, uninterrupted networking services.

The procurement package includes a comprehensive three-year support agreement covering hardware warranties, software licensing, and 24x7 technical support. Professional installation and configuration services are also included, reducing implementation risk and accelerating deployment of the new switches.

Purchasing and deploying the QFX5700 platform positions the Lottery to meet current and future networking demands with greater confidence and agility. While the initial investment is significant, the long-term benefits—such as improved performance, reduced downtime, and lower operational overhead—justify the expenditure. The cost of maintaining outdated infrastructure, both financially and reputationally, far exceeds the investment required for this upgrade.

Failure to replace the E9208 switches before their EOL date could result in catastrophic network failures, directly impacting the Lottery's ability to conduct core business operations. This includes potential disruptions to gaming system access, transaction processing, draw execution, and communication with field offices and external partners. Such failures could severely affect business continuity, revenue generation, and public trust.

The Lottery's formal competitive bid procedures will not apply to this procurement, pursuant to the exception set forth in Lottery Regulations Section 8.1.2.C as follows:

“The goods or services will be acquired using a standard United States General Services Administration Agreement or a State of California, Department of General Services Master Services Agreement, Multiple Award Schedule, Master Rental Agreement, or other such agreement which establishes a list of pre-qualified bidders who have agreed to contract terms and prices.”

The Lottery utilized a leveraged procurement agreement, requesting bids from multiple resellers that participate in the Enterprise Technology Statewide Contract administered by the State of California, Department of General Services (1-24-70-19-01). The lowest bid was submitted by Allied Network Solutions, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

The Lottery recommends that the Commission approve of the purchase of the new Juniper core network switches with a 36-month support plan. The total contract amount is \$ 372,664.78, with the support term beginning upon receipt of the hardware.