



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
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## Public Works

## Board Action

File #: 19-345

Commissioner Chad Brown - Public Works - To Authorize Blossman Services, Inc. (Alliance Autogas) as the Sole Source Provider for the PRINS LPG Conversion System Parts and Installation (**\$50,400 CFAT Grant; \$19,600 Required Local Match**)

### STAFF CONTACT

Ray Maxwell, PE - Director - Public Works - 704-862-7551

### BUDGET IMPACT

No Additional County Funds

### BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

### BACKGROUND

Gaston County was awarded grant funding through the 2017-2018 Clean Fuel Advance Technology (CFAT) Project for the purpose of converting ten (10) additional County vehicles to burn liquid propane gas utilizing a bi-fuel system in an effort to reduce harmful emissions. The Gaston County Board of Commissioners previously approved Resolution 2018-251 to accept and appropriate \$50,400 in grant funding and authorized moving \$19,600 in local funding to the project account to satisfy the required local match.

Blossman Services Inc., through the Alliance Autogas brand, is the only United States distributor for the PRINS LPG conversion system. Gaston County has converted forty (40) vehicles to operate on the bi-fuel setup utilizing the PRINS LPG system. In order to ensure standardization and compatibility with existing equipment, the Public Works Office has requested and received sole source approval from the granting agency. The Gaston County Uniform Guidance Policy & Procedures requires the approval of a sole source contract when the cost is above the micro-purchasing threshold (\$10,000). Approval of this Board Action approves Blossman Services Inc. (Alliance Autogas brand) as the sole source provider for parts and installation of the PRINS LPG conversion systems as specified in the 2017-2018 CFAT Grant award and authorizes the County Manager, or her designee, to sign the appropriate agreements to proceed with installation.

### POLICY IMPACT

N/A

### ATTACHMENTS

Grantor Sole Source Approval

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RVotley	Vote
2019-236	08/27/2019	CB	AF	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS



## *Gaston County* Public Works Department

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August 12, 2019

Heather Brutz, NCSU Principal Investigator  
NC State University  
NC Clean Energy Technology Center  
Campus Box 7409  
Raleigh, NC 27695

Re: 2017-2018 CFAT Project  
Subaward Notice Number: 2017-1789-14

Ms. Brutz:

Gaston County has previously partnered with the NC Clean Energy Technology Center to complete LPG bi-fuel conversions on forty (40) County-owned vehicles resulting in emissions reductions and significant fuel cost savings estimated over \$400,000 since starting the project in 2012. Gaston County has been awarded funding through the 2017-2018 CFAT Project for the purpose of converting ten (10) additional County-owned vehicles to operate using the LPG bi-fuel system. In Gaston County's grant application, the PRINs system was specified as the preferred method of conversion allowing the vehicles to use either LPG or gasoline.

Gaston County has adopted Resolution 2018-157 requiring that contracts funded with federal grant or loan funds must be procured in a manner that conforms with all applicable Federal laws, policies, and standards, including those under the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200). Uniform Guidance exceptions allow non-competitive contracts only under special conditions and with the written approval of the federal agency or state pass-through agency that awarded the federal funds.

To meet the requirements outlined in the Subaward Appendix B, Item 26 – Procurement of Goods and Services, Gaston County is seeking written approval from the NC Clean Energy Technology Center to approve Blossman Services, Inc. (Alliance Autogas brand) as the sole-source provider of the PRINs LPG bi-fuel conversion kits. Blossman Services, Inc. (Alliance Autogas brand) is the only United States distributor of the PRINs bi-fuel system. Gaston County proposes to utilize Blossman Services, Inc. (Alliance Autogas brand) for the purchase and installation of ten (10) bi-fuel conversion kits as outlined in the 2017-2018 CFAT Statement of Work. Additionally, selecting the PRINs bi-fuel system will ensure standardization of equipment utilized in all County-owned vehicles converted to the bi-fuel setup and operated/maintained by Gaston County.

In addition to obtaining written approval from the federal agency or state pass-through agency that awarded the federal funds, Gaston County will comply with Uniform Guidance requirements for sole source contracts by securing approval from the Gaston County Board of

Commissioners when cost is above the micro-purchasing threshold (\$10,000 as of 6/2/18).

Thank you in advance for reviewing this request and providing a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Blackwell  
Contracts Coordinator



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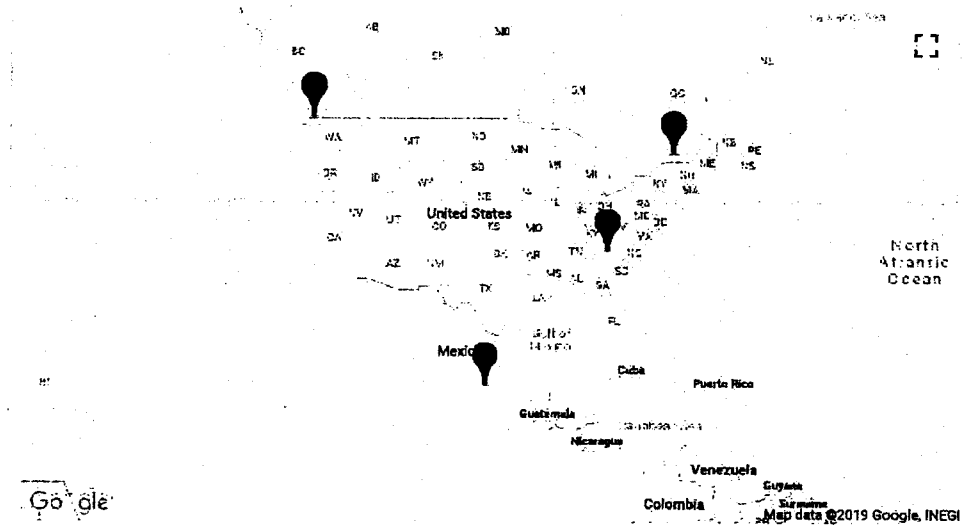
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**From:** Richard Sapienza  
**To:** Matt Blackwell; Heather Brutz  
**Subject:** {External} Fwd: [External] Sole Source Justification for CFAT  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 21, 2019 7:30:04 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Matt:

Per program sponsor, you are clear to proceed with CFAT award with PRINS system on standardization justification.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Hildebrandt, Heather J <hjhldebrandt@ncdot.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Aug 21, 2019, 6:45 AM  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Sole Source Justification for CFAT  
**To:** resapien@ncsu.edu <resapien@ncsu.edu>  
**Cc:** Heather Brutz <hmbrutz@ncsu.edu>

As long as they are following either their or the state's procurement policies, they should be OK. I agree that an argument could be made for standardization considering their current fleet of 37 PRINS vehicles.

Heather J. Hildebrandt  
Statewide Initiatives  
919 707 0964

**From:** Richard Sapienza <resapien@ncsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 20, 2019 2:06 PM  
**To:** Hildebrandt, Heather J <hjhldebrandt@ncdot.gov>  
**Cc:** Heather Brutz <hmbrutz@ncsu.edu>  
**Subject:** [External] Sole Source Justification for CFAT

**CAUTION:**

Heather:

I am seeking concurrence/approval regarding sole source justification for a CFAT project. The project is Gaston County. They have done several LPG projects over the years and have been using the PRINS system offered by Alliance. They currently have 37 PRINS vehicles in service and would like to maintain standardization of their LPG fleet. I have included a link to the state procurement guidelines which are permissible for CFAT compliance that I believe covers this situation--item #5. Please advise. Thank you.

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/Purchasing/Pages/PurchasingManual.aspx?>