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# Milwaukee plans to buy four initial streetcars, could pay more than \$4M each

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The city of Milwaukee on Monday opened competition for companies to build up to 24 streetcar vehicles, the first four of which would run on the city's downtown system.

The city expects to spend about \$17.6 million buying four vehicles for its downtown streetcar system, which is to begin service in summer 2018. The city would spend an additional \$4.1 million buying another vehicle to run on a spur to the downtown lakefront, which would be added after the original downtown line opens.

The city would have an option to buy up to 19 more streetcars under that same contract as the streetcar system is extended. Other cities in the process of building streetcar systems, such as Sacramento, Calif., Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Oklahoma City, Okla., may also step in to buy streetcars under the contract's options.

Consultants from the **The Concord Group**, the city's lead consultant on the streetcar, shared details on the request for proposals in late March with a city task force.

The four vehicles will each have three cars, totaling 65 to 82 feet long and 8 feet, 8 inches wide.

A final contract will not be awarded until late August, under the schedule in the request for proposals issued Monday. Under that timeline, the first vehicles would arrive in Milwaukee in 2017.

A company will be selected based on price, technical qualifications and appearance of the vehicles.

City officials expect four to six manufacturers to respond to the request for proposals, out of the roughly 12 in the country that can build this type of streetcar.

The city plans a two-tiered competitive process. It will vet proposals received in response to this first RFP. It will then issue a second, revised request to invited manufacturers to get their "best and final offer," a process designed to get lower prices on the vehicles.

Reporter Sean Ryan covers commercial and residential real estate for the Milwaukee Business Journal and through the [Real Estate Roundup blog](#) on the website. He also covers construction, highways and public transit.