RESOLUTION No. 23-079

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PURCHASE OF A NEW MAIL SORTER FOR THE ELECTIONS OFFICE AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 ELECTIONS BUDGET (4/5 AFFIRMATIVE VOTE REQUIRED)

WHEREAS, Nevada County is required by law to mail all eligible, registered voters a ballot beginning 29 days before any election; and

WHEREAS, anywhere from 90 to 94 percent of all returned ballots in Nevada County in recent elections were cast by mail; and

WHEREAS, in the regular course of business, temporary and permanent staff sort tens of thousands of ballots manually to ensure an organized and efficient one percent manual tally of returns; and

WHEREAS, an investment in a mail sorter will save time and money for the County; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters published a Request for Proposals and identified a suitable mail sorter; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County is eligible for state reimbursement of the mail sorter at a 3-to-1 match of County dollars, pursuant to Standard Agreement 18G30129-02, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 12, 2019, Resolution 19-052 and subsequently amended by Resolutions 20-038 and 22-152; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price and installation require approval of a Capital Asset; and

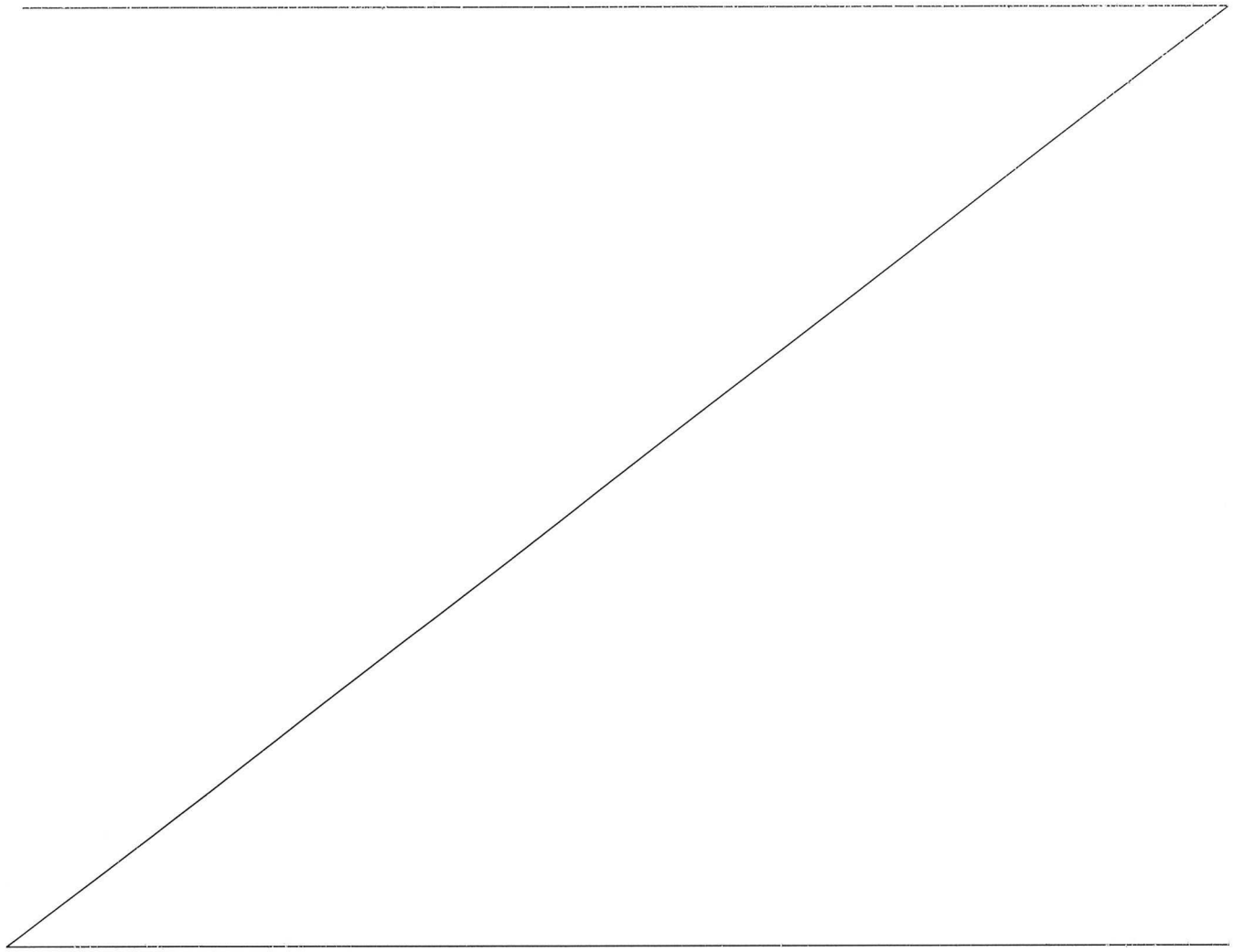
WHEREAS, a budget amendment is required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors authorize the purchase and installation of a Capital Asset (mail sorter) in the amount of $324,074 for the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors authorizes and directs the Auditor-Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget as follows:

Increase Budget:

ORG: 0101105010731000 / PCN: 07300000 / ACCT: 445090: $168,055.00
ORG: 0101105010731000 / PCN: 07300000 / ACCT: 521475: $31,912.00
ORG: 0101105010731000 / PCN: 07300000 / ACCT: 540420: $217,162.00



PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 28th day of February, 2023, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward C. Scofield, Lisa Swarthout, Susan Hoek and Hardy Bullock.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Julie M, Deputy COB for

Edward C. Scofield

Edward C. Scofield, Chair

2/28/2023 cc: Elections*
AC*

COUNTY OF NEVADA
CAPITAL ASSET BUDGET REQUEST

TYPE OF REQUEST:

[ ] Infrastructure Improvements and Preservation
[ ] Building Structures & Improvements - Please identify building: _____
[ ] Land: Rights of Way, Easements & Land Improvments
[X] Equipment: Technological - *Information Systems approval date:* _____
[ ] Equipment: Automotive
[ ] Equipment: Office, Furniture & Fixtures
[ ] Equipment: Other:

Fiscal Year:	1
Dept Name:	Elections
Fund:	0101
SBU:	10501
Office2:	073
Sub-Service:	1000
PCN:	7300000
Acct Code:	540420

IMPORTANCE OF CAPITAL ASSET: **[X] Urgent** **[ ] Necessary** **[ ] Desirable**

PRIORITY RANKING OF CAPITAL ASSET: **___1___ out of ___2___ Total Department Requests**

JUSTIFICATION FOR CAPITAL ASSET (Attach additional pages as necessary)

Due to increasing demains put on Elections nationwide, the state of California has offered to reimburse 75% of costs for Vote by Mail sorting and processing equipment.
This system will allow our County to stream-line the sorting and processing of ballots. It will greatly reduce the time it takes to manually sort ballots, and thus reduce the time it takes to certify an election.

FUNDING SOURCE FOR CAPITAL ASSET

1. Is this grant-funded?	**[X] Yes**	**Granting Agency:**	Secretary of State	**BOS Reso. # Accepting Grant:**	Reso# 20-038 : 18G30129
	[ ] No	**Other funding source:**			
2. What is the general fund and/or other fund balance dollar impact?		**[ ] None**	**[X] As follows:**	**FY 22-23: Acct #54040 $75,000**	
3. Who will technically own this asset?	**[X] County of Nevada**	**[ ] Granting Agency**	**Notes regarding ownership:**		

Notes regarding funding (including deadlines)
$277,549.44 remaining from the original grant for purchaing a Mail Sorter. The deadline for these funds are Dec. 31, 2024

CAPITAL ASSET ITEMIZED COSTS - Estimated

Item	Quantity		Unit Cost	Sales Tax	Shipping	Installation	Other Cost	Total Cost
Blue Crest Mail Sorter	1	@	$224,329	$16,825				$241,154
Blue Crest Envelope Opener	1	@	$43,250	$3,244				$46,494
Overhead Tray Rack	1	@	$4,200	$315				$4,515
	1	@		$0				$0
		@		$0				$0
							TOTAL:	**$292,162**

Please attach documentation (ISSB approval minutes, quotes, etc.)

Prepared by: S Hall Date: 1/30/23
Phone: x2783

APPROVED BY:
Dept. Head Signature: _____ Date: 1/31/2023
CEO Analyst Signature: _____ Date: _____

CEO Staff use only

Notes: _____ **Initials** _____ **Date** _____
[ ] Denied
[ ] Approved $_____
Capital Asset Approval # ___

COUNTY OF NEVADA
CAPITAL ASSET BUDGET REQUEST

TYPE OF REQUEST:

[ ] Infrastructure Improvements and Preservation
[ ] Building Structures & Improvements - Please identify building:_____
[ ] Land: Rights of Way, Easements & Land Improvments
[X] Equipment: Technological - *Information Systems approval date:*_____
[ ] Equipment: Automotive
[ ] Equipment: Office, Furniture & Fixtures
[ ] Equipment: Other:

Fiscal Year:	1
Dept Name:	**Elections**
Fund:	0101
SBU:	10501
Office2:	073
Sub-Service:	1000
PCN:	7300000
Acct Code:	521475

IMPORTANCE OF CAPITAL ASSET: **[X] Urgent [ ] Necessary [ ] Desirable**

PRIORITY RANKING OF CAPITAL ASSET: ___2___ out of ___2____ Total Department Requests

JUSTIFICATION FOR CAPITAL ASSET (Attach additional pages as necessary)

Due to increasing demains put on Elections nationwide, the state of California has offered to reimburse 75% of costs for Vote by Mail sorting and processing equipment.
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	[ ] No	**Other funding source:**			
2. What is the general fund and/or other fund balance dollar impact?		[ ] None	[X] As follows:	**FY 22-23: Acct #521475**	
3. Who will technically own this asset?	**[X] County of Nevada**	**[ ] Granting Agency**	**Notes regarding ownership:**		
Notes regarding funding (including deadlines)					
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CAPITAL ASSET ITEMIZED COSTS - Estimated

Item	Quantity		Unit Cost	Sales Tax	Shipping	Installation	Other Cost	Total Cost
Blue Crest Maintenance	1	@	$31,912	$0				$31,912
		@		$0				$0
		@		$0				$0
		@		$0				$0
		@		$0				$0
							TOTAL:	**$31,912**

Please attach documentation (ISSB approval minutes, quotes, etc.)

Prepared by: S. Hall Date: 1/30/23
Phone: x2783

APPROVED BY:
Dept. Head Signature: _____ Date: 1/31/2023
CEO Analyst Signature: _____ Date: _____

CEO Staff use only

Notes: **Initials** _____ **Date**_____
[ ] Denied
[ ] Approved $_____
Capital Asset Approval # ___

BLUECREST

January 30, 2023

Nevada County Registrar of Voters

Elevate VBM Sorter Investment

Description	Qty	Unit Price	Extended Price
18K Elevate VBM Sorter with 8 Bins	1	$ 224,329.00	$ 224,329.00
Selective Opener	1	$ 43,250.00	$ 43,250.00
Overhead Tray Racks	1	$ 4,200.00	$ 4,200.00
		Equip Total	$ 271,779.00
		Freight	$ 00
		Total	$ 271,779.00
		Tax	$ 20,383.43
		Grand Total	$ 292,162.43
Election Support:	2024	2025	2026
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$31,912.00	$ 13,454.00	$ 31,912.00

Notes:

Freight is included, any needed rigging to second floor site not included.
Additional set of 8 bins w/ overhead racks, and tray tag printer: $38,000.
Support option: Schedule a technician "on-site" for one day during an election $2,300.
The three-year maintenance plan can be paid up front if the county prefers.
Quote subject to change to 2/28/23.

BLUECREST

Elevate VBM Sorter Proposal

Submitted to:
Nevada County Elections

Presented on:
January 23, 2023

Prepared by:
Thomas C Randolph and Team
BlueCrest

January 23, 2023

Suzanne Hardin
Nevada County Elections
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mrs. Hardin,

We are pleased to offer this proposal for our **Elevate**™ Vote by Mail (VBM) sorting system. This scalable solution is designed to help manage your increasing mail ballot volumes while laying the foundation to expand the functionality and capabilities for future elections.

BlueCrest (formerly Pitney Bowes Document Messaging) has a long history of industry-leading, high-speed sorting equipment for various applications across several decades. While the BlueCrest name may be unfamiliar to you, we have been a leader in the VBM sorter space market for the past 20 years. In 2021, BlueCrest acquired Fluence Automation, another leading sorter and vote by mail technology provider. Together, we offer a combination of technology, experience and support that is unmatched in the industry:

- We developed and installed the first automated sorting solutions for mail balloting in 2003 for Orange County, CA and have numerous patents on this technology.
- We now have nearly 70 counties across the countries using BlueCrest technology for their mail ballots (twenty of which are in California), ranging in size from 30,000 to 6 million ballots per election.
- BlueCrest technology touched over 33 million mail ballots in the 2020 general election.

While there are other vendors who offer mail ballot systems, no one has the history, experience, or track record of BlueCrest in this market. This experience means that Nevada County is gaining more than just a technology provider- rather you are investing in a Vote by Mail partner who can help guide you through this transformation from a manual to an automated solution while mitigating risk factors that can occur when making such substantial process changes.

Moreover, we are the only company whose products are supported by a nationwide service network of full-time employees with experience supporting critical production equipment such as mail ballot sorters. This enables us to provide same day, onsite response in most case with a qualified, factory trained service technician, when required. Additionally, our service team helps you prepare for each election. We also offer optional, on-site support in addition to call-in service, if desired.

We understand you will be evaluating other mail ballot vendors as you search for your optimal solution, and rightly so. Following are some key points that we feel deserve consideration as you make your comparisons:

1. Hardware and Software Support:
    a. BlueCrest is the most experienced vendor in the industry, with the largest number of installations in the mail ballot space.
    b. We offer local, same day, service to ensure prompt support whenever you need us during elections.

c. Our service package also includes a "warm up" and "shut down" service for up to 2 elections per year. This helps ensure a smooth start for each election and helps to minimize problem later in the process.

2. The Elevate being offered is a production sorter that can truly process at 18,000 pieces per hour.
3. True production sorting bins:
    a. Our X Class bins are the most reliable and productive in the industry, meaning fewer jams and higher productivity
    b. On edge stacking means higher productivity in a smaller space. Other solutions utilize tubs to collect the mail- this means more work for operators to face and stack mail while processing.
4. Upgradeability into the future- expandability is an important consideration, particularly with an investment of this size. Bins can be added at any time to the system, and it can be upgraded to process speeds of up to 36,000 pieces per hour should future needs and volumes require it.
5. We have a total of 20 counties in CA using BlueCrest technology. Following are some of our Elevate users.
    - Humboldt County
    - Marin County
    - Monterey County
    - Solano County
    - San Joaquin County
    - Stanislaus County
    - Tulare County
    - Sonoma County
    - Placer County (installing Q2 2023)

Again, thank you so much for the consideration and opportunity to provide you information on our solutions. Please let us know if you have any questions on the contents, and we look forward to speaking further with you.

Sincerely,

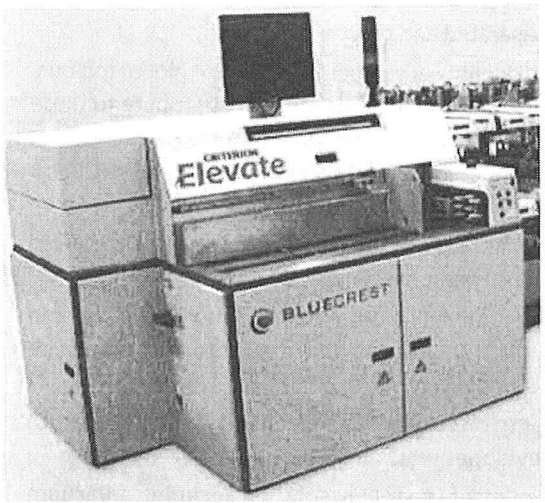
Tom Randolph

Thomas C Randolph
Regional Account Manager

Elevate Sorter

Election offices are being asked to process more mail in ballots than ever before, and that has now been accelerated with the legislative changes brought on by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. These return ballots must also be processed in a short time frame depending on the processing window and timing of the ballots being returned. This requirement creates the need for high-speed sorters that can achieve greater throughputs in a shorter amount of time while maintaining integrity in the process.

BlueCrest has several options for our customer's sorting needs. Based on your specific request, we believe our Elevate is the most effective solution for Nevada County. This solution will accomplish everything that you are looking to do today and allow for growth or changes in the future.



The highlights of the Elevate Sorter are:

- Single vendor comprehensive solution providing you with full sorting functionality
- Elevate sorting system with a throughput of up to 18,000- 20,000 pieces/hour
- Modular and ergonomic bin sections available in one or two tier and single or double-sided.
- Self-contained, highly configurable bins with as few as 4 or as many 128 bins per sorter.
- Industry Leading BCR & MLOCR Technology
- A state-of-the-art, controlled gap, friction feeder that results in the highest throughput in its class, without losing the integrity of the mail processed. This reduces unnecessary stoppages and maximizes up-time.
- Bins are close to the operator, allowing a single person to efficiently sweep the bins while running the feeder.
- Simple to use, meaning minimal user training required

System Configuration Options:

- **Elevate™** small footprint front-end with a processing speed of **18,000 envelopes/hour** for #10 envelopes, including a friction feeding mechanism to handle a wide range of letter mail.
- **X-Class bins-** Our proposal includes 4 or 8 sorting bins. These bins can be configured as single sided or two sided, depending upon available space. Additional bin sections can be added in the future if needed.
- **Front side MMT SABRE® VBM** can read barcodes and capturing signatures at high speed, enabling on screen matching of signatures against those in the VR System. Note: Back cameras can be added for those wishing to image the postmark side of the envelope.
- **Integrity package:** This consists of a **doubles detector** and a **thickness detector** as described below:
    - **Doubles detector**: This device is located below the mail path and will analyze an image of the edge of the envelope to identify any envelopes that are stuck together. Any such double feeds will be sorted to the reject bin to ensure that the second envelope is separated and processed correctly.
    - **Thickness detector:** A laser-based thickness detector to identify envelopes that are too thick or too thin, and therefore may have the incorrect number of ballots. Common scenarios that contribute to these conditions are members of a household putting all their ballots into one envelope, and a voter forgetting to include the ballot when sealing the envelope. The thickness detector will outsort these envelopes to the reject bin, so that they can be investigated and correctly handled.
- **Inkjet endorsement printer:** prints a time and date stamp, as well as the return source, on each received piece. This feature uses ink cartridges to simplify maintenance and replacement
- **Optional Inline selective opener with chip collection:** An inline selective opener will open the envelopes by milling the bottom of the envelope without damaging the internal contents. This can be done after signature verification or sorting passes. Additionally,
    - Our opener is selective, therefore can be set to only open valid pieces. This is a key feature to protect against inadvertently opening envelopes which have not been fully verified
    - The milling process can create a large amount of dust. Our solution includes a vacuum collector with a large waste receptable to ensure efficient removal of paper chips and minimize dust. This is particularly important when the system is in an office environment.
- **Optional Automated Signature Verification (ASV):** If this option is selected, the system can perform automated signature verification concurrent with other sorting tasks, maximizing the overall performance possible, without any drop in throughput. We have proven installations with inline ASV since 2007.

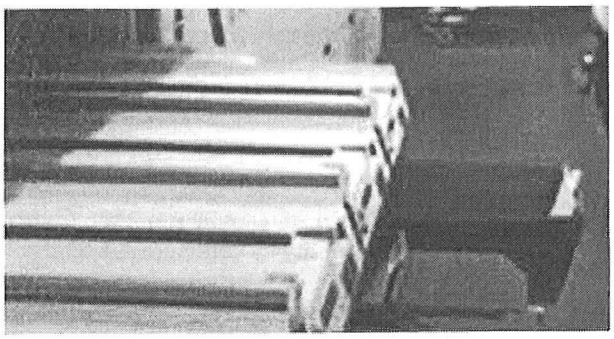
X-Class Modular Sort Bins

The Elevate's bin sorting system is modular and provides exceptional productivity and increased efficiency in a space-saving design. Available in one or two-tier designs for the Elevate, the system can be readily reconfigured to adapt to changes to operational needs. We are proposing a two sided, 8 bin, configuration that provides sorting capability in a very compact design. Some of the key features include:

- Indicators at each bin (and a display above the machine) notify operators when the bins are nearly full and completely full.
- Integrated bin displays provide easy identification of the accounts in the bin and minimize sweeping errors.
- Operators are located adjacent to the first bins. This allows the operator to identify miss-fed quickly and easily and out of scheme mail. Additionally, it allows the operator to efficiently sweep the machine of finished mail.
- Uni-Directional transport the time from feeding until it reaches the bin. This lessens the opportunity to jam and reduces the amount of mail on the track in the event of a jam.
- Down-Stream Diverts deflect mail into a bin seamlessly, avoiding hard impacts which can lead to jams and mutilated mail.
- The removable bins also provide easy access to electronic components for routine and emergency maintenance.

- Integrated bin displays provide easy identification of the accounts in the bin and minimize sweeping errors.

- Below-bin tray drawers allow operators to comfortably sweep mail from bins into trays. Ergonomic design reduces workloads for the operator and eliminates need for tablespace to stage mail during processing



Solution and Process Overview

The Elevate Vote by Mail Sorting System is very flexible, supporting a wide range of processing modes, evolved over actual experiences and feedback from multiple counties since our initial mail ballot sorting installations. While we have worked with variations in processes between counties, we have also identified underlying common characteristics that do not vary significantly across counties. Our system is built with these common characteristics as a basis, with additional functionality that can be configured to best meet the unique needs of each county.

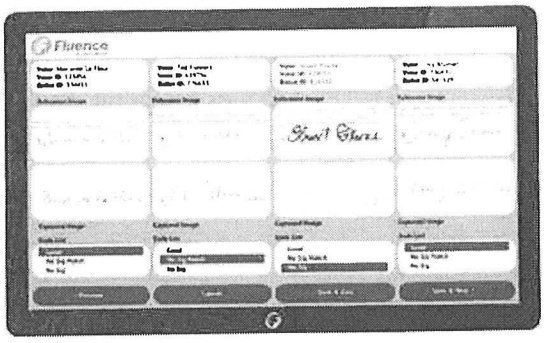
The process used by the Elevate is different than your current ES&S system.

Process Flow

- **Download Data:** Typically, there is an initial download from the VR System that contains voters receiving a mail ballot for the upcoming election. Additionally, there is a daily and/or on-demand download prior to processing each day's volume so that all verification and sorting is performed based on the latest data.
- **First Pass** As the name implies, this is the first time an envelope will be run on the system. Mail that has just arrived from USPS/ picked up from drop-off locations should be run on the sorter in First Pass mode. The sorter will automatically create a batch, scan the barcode on each mail ballot, and compare it to the most recent downloaded data all in one pass, with no loss in throughput.
    - If a specific mail ballot piece has been identified as invalid (wrong election, already processed) it will be outsorted based on that code.
    - The system will also outsort based on physical specifications (too thick/ thin, no signature or date, etc.). These can be outsorted to a specific bin based on the error condition.
    - Images of both envelope and signature/ date area are captured
    - If ASV is used, the system will check signatures against those on file automatically.
    - Data regarding the status of each piece (verified/ pending or exception) is made available to your ProVista systems for updating and subsequent processes.
    - LCD displays on the bin ensure that the user is aware of the contents of the bin without having to lookup the sort scheme.
    - Tray tags are printed that includes the batch number and description of the bin contents by pressing an on-demand print button on each sort bin.
    - Drop location information can be associated with the mail ballots being run for improved tracking of mail from drop boxes or returned over the county by voters, rather than sent through the USPS.
    - Envelopes returned from the USPS as undeliverable (UAA) can also be processed as a separate batch to eliminate manual data entry and processing.

Manual Signature Verification

Signatures images of envelopes which were not verified automatically by the ASV software are made available to the ProVista for purposes of manual, on screen verification. Staff will view the envelope image side by side against the reference signature on file, and mark the as "good" or challenged, using pre- defined challenge codes. This data is them made available to the sorter for subsequent processing.



Re-Pass:

This mode is used to out-sort challenges or exception envelopes that have been flagged for review during the verification process. Multiple First Pass batches can be accumulated and run as a single Re-Pass batch to optimize the processing effort while still physically separating out the unaccepted/ challenged pieces. Only envelopes run in First Pass will be processed on Re-Pass. If some envelopes were accidentally fed directly in Re-Pass, the system will out-sort them to avoid incorrect processing.

Valid pieces can be sorted to groups. We have included 8 bins with our proposed solution. 3 of these could be assigned for reject/ challenges, leaving 5 bins for sortation of good pieces.

Sort Pass Description

This step is to sort pieces to individual precincts (or district styles) if desired.

Fine Sort: Only mail that has completed First Pass sort and whose data has been successfully exported to the county's election management system is expected to be run on the sorter in Fine Sort mode. The operator will feed mail from specific First Pass sort bins (per a system-generated report) and the system will sort the mail down to individual precincts (or district styles). If some envelopes are accidentally fed directly in Fine Sort (before the data has been uploaded and downloaded from the county's Election Management System), the sorter will out-sort them to avoid incorrect processing.

- Opening can occur on this step, if applicable. The opener is selective, meaning it will only open valid pieces already processed through the first pass.

Reports

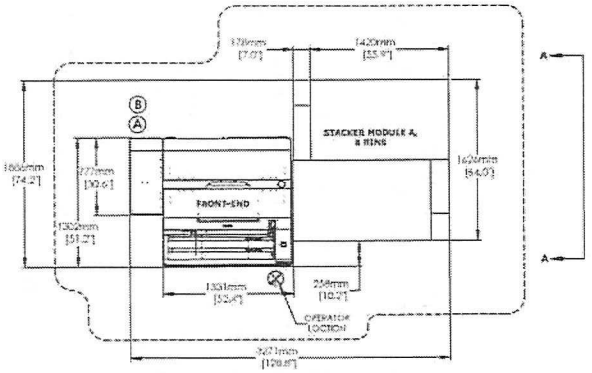
The following is a partial list of some commonly used reports. These reports are customized to provide needed data points for elections offices and continue to be updated based on customer feedback.

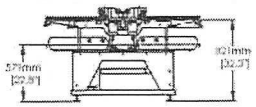
1. **End of Day report**
    a. This is a simple summary report to show total pieces fed by First Pass bin for the whole day
2. **Counts by Batch:**
    a. Shows the Group Number, Bin Number, Sort (Precinct) Code, Challenge Code, and Count.
3. **Total by Challenge Type:**
    a. Lists the number of ballots for each Challenge Code.
4. **Not Verified report:**
    a. Lists the Sort Code, Serial ID, Ballot ID, and Challenge Code for envelopes that are ready for validation but have not been validated.
    b. This is useful to identify Ballot IDs that may have missed being reviewed for any reason.
5. **Duplicates report**
    a. Shows how many envelopes in the batch have the same Ballot ID.
    b. A duplicate check is performed each time the run screen is exited, and this report is generated each time.
6. **Batch Snapshot report**
    a. Shows summary metrics to quickly compared counts between the First Pass vs. subsequent passes for reconciliation purposes.

NOTES:

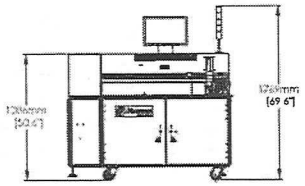
1. THIS DRAWING PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASME Y14.100.

REVISIONS			
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED
-	E1T8	01/30/23	B. BOWERS





VIEW A-A, 1-TIER
SOME OBJECTS NOT
SHOWN FOR CLARITY



MINIMUM 762 mm [30"]
WALKAROUND REQUIRED

NOTES:

POWER REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE LINE QUALITY SUITABLE FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, HARD WIRE GROUND TO BUILDING GROUNDING POINT AND COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL AND NEC WIRING CODES.

MINIMUM ELECTRICAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:
208VAC 60Hz 3 PHASE 5 WIRE
BASIC ELEVATE FRONT END = 12A
BACK END REQUIRES = 2A

SPECIFICATIONS:
> TEMPERATURE 55° TO 85° F.
> OPERATING HUMIDITY 20 TO 80% RH NON-CONDENSING.
> NOISE 75 DB AVERAGE.
> AIR CONDITIONING LOAD APPROXIMATELY 4,500 BTU/HR

CONNECTION INFORMATION:
MAIN INPUT:
208VAC, 3 PHASE 5 WIRE POWER, BOTTOM ENTRANCE PORT., FLUENCE AUTOMATION PROVIDES CABLE TERMINATION HARDWARE SUITABLE FOR USE WITH DOWN TO #4 AWG CONDUCTORS. MAIN DISCONNECT IS RATED AT 63A

MAIN DROP LOCATION: A
NETWORK DROP LOCATION: B (CAT6 MINIMUM)

UNLESS SPECIFIED ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS
DECIMALS: .— ±0.8 mm
DECIMAL-X.X— ±0.25 mm
DECIMAL-X.XX ±0.12 mm
ANGLES —— ±1°
REMOVE ALL BURRS & SHARP EDGES

THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION

	SIGNATURE	DATE
DRAWN BY	G. ERION	01/30/23
CHECKED BY	B. BOWERS	01/30/23
ENGINEER	B. BOWERS	01/30/23

Fluence
3333 N. KENNICOTT AVE.
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004

TITLE: ELEVATE, 1T, 8 BIN

SIZE: D | CAGE CODE: 60518 | DWG NO: E1T8 | REV: -

SCALE: NONE | DO NOT SCALE DRAWING | SHEET 1 OF 1

Service and Support

Operator Training

One session of operator training is provided free of charge for up to four operators for each system at the time of installation. This training covers the operation, use, configuration, and normal daily operator maintenance of the systems, as well as applicable health and safety issues.

The operator training will cover routine tasks such as paper loading/unloading, recovery from product jams, setup, and adjustments. The training will occur during normal business hours (8:30 AM to 5:00 PM). All training will be conducted at the customer site and will take three to three- and one-half days.

Operator manuals for each system are supplied at the time of the training class. In addition, each operator is given a training guide which gives clear and concise instructions on how to operate the system and includes pertinent screen shots for clarity.

Upon completion of the training, each operator will receive a certificate verifying that they have successfully completed the training and are qualified to operate the equipment. Class attendees are typically able to perform the routine tasks described upon completion of the training and will become proficient in these tasks within 90 - 180 days experience on the systems, depending on the level of experience.

Additional training after the install will be charge training and will be quoted by the local District Service Manager.

Annual Hardware and Software Maintenance

Vote by Mail Service Package

We have a variety of options available for service support, however, we have included information on our standard election support package. Standard service is available Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM (excluding recognized holidays): during a declared election.

- Access to Bluecrest' s Customer Care Center for Equipment or Software issues
- Phone response by a trained BlueCrest Customer Service Engineer (CSE) during normal business hours to assist Customer with general questions or troubleshooting.
- On site response for problems not resolved via the phone by a factory trained technician (up to 12 per year). Response time for technician to arrive averages approximately 4 hours in the Sacramento area.
- Replacement of any broken non-consumable parts
- Scheduled inspection and test of VBM sorter to ensure readiness of election ballot processing for up to 2 elections per year. The PM inspection will include the replacement of non-consumable parts that are deemed necessary to ensure optimal efficiency of the equipment.
- After the election, BlueCrest will perform post-election services to ensure the system is properly prepared to lay idle until the next election processing period. The post-election services ensure the trouble-free startup of the equipment at the next election period.

Detailed cost proposal for Installation, Maintenance, Training

The pricing for the proposed configuration is as follows:

- Elevate Front End
- Single-sided, single tier configuration with 4 bins and Slide Out Tray Drawers
- **Or** Dual side, single tier configuration with 8 bins and Slide out Tray Drawers
- LCD Bin Displays
- SABRE™ Vote by Mail Camera (front)
- Cartridge Printer for endorsement (time/ date/ return source) printing
- Laser Report Printer for reports
- Tray Tag Printer to manage individual trays
- Integrity Package (Thickness and Doubles Detection)
- Winsort Server Computer & spare parts kit
- VBM Software Bundle with Unlimited Review & Verification
- Stored Procedure Interface for ProVista System
- Hand Scanner
- Installation, On-site Testing and Training

Government price $ 213,224 with 4 bins
$ 224,329 with 8 bins

SOFTWARE & EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Warranty: 90-day parts and labor (excludes wear parts and consumables)

Annual Software Maintenance Agreement (SMA)	$13,454
Annual Equipment Maintenance Agreement (EMA)**	$18,458

Includes:

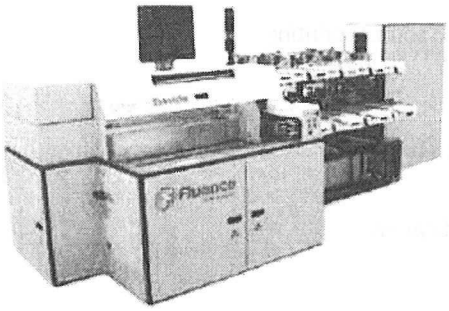
- Coverage for 2 elections per year
- 2 PM's per year
- 12 service calls per year
- 4-hour response (average)
- Parts included

The costs shown is for our full-service plan, as outlined in this proposal, for two elections per year. Other plans are available, depending on the level of self-maintenance a customer is willing to take on and response time commitments for on-site technicians. We recommend adopting our full service plan for at least for the first several election cycles of use, after which an evaluation could be made regarding desired plans moving forward.

Equipment Brochure

VOTE BY MAIL AUTOMATION

Overview and Benefits



Fluence Automation offers affordable, practical solutions based on our advanced sorting platforms, that solve many of the most difficult mail ballot processing challenges. Unlike others, we design, build, and support our systems, and therefore control the long-term product direction.

Our solutions deliver valuable capabilities, developed over years of working with county officials, built on platforms proven through decades of heavy-duty production mail processing.

SAVE PROCESSING TIME AND SPACE

- Consolidate multiple steps into fewer automated steps, including tab removal
- Efficiently handle high volumes on peak election days at throughputs from 18,000 to 45,000/hour
- With a two – pass operation, it is possible to sort to 196 separations with a 16-bin sorter

MINIMIZE ERRORS, ACCELERATE INVESTIGATIONS & TROUBLESHOOTING

- Various concurrent validations – ID validation, duplicate checks, thickness, double feeds, etc.
- Item level tracking with easy lookup for processing history, with images for each run, designed for detailed investigation
- Efficient image review with tiered access rights, for initial and subsequent verification
- Detailed audit log captures all key processing steps and status changes

SIMPLIFY TRAINING AND STAFFING

- Automation of manual tasks reduces amount of temporary staffing needed
- Fewer manual tasks reduces training needs, structured process supports quick learning
- System generated reports simplifies tallying, monitoring and other processing

INDUSTRY LEADING SERVICE

- One of the widest and well-run nationwide service networks available today
- Local service supported by specialized remote support
- Extensive experience maintaining 24 X 7 production equipment
- Protects investment and maximizes performance

Process Steps

FIRST PASS

- Feed ballot envelopes
- System automatically:

+Verifies barcode ID, confirming current election
+ Checks for thickness and doubles*
+ Detects duplicates within & across batches
+ Detects and removes tab*
+ Automatically verifies signature*
+ Prints date and time stamp*
+ Sorts based on precincts, ballot styles, other parameters
+ Diverts challenges & verification failures

REVIEW IMAGES

- Operator reviews 1 up to 4 scanned images at a time
- Review the signature only or complete envelope
- Initial review by Reviewer role
- Subsequent reviews by Supervisor or Admin roles
- Select from among configurable drop-down choices for specific conditions

RE-PASS

- Re-run previously run ballots if necessary without impacting counts
- Re-run challenges after they are cured, to sort into the correct groups prior to Fine Sort
- Detect duplicates within the batch for accurate counts tracking

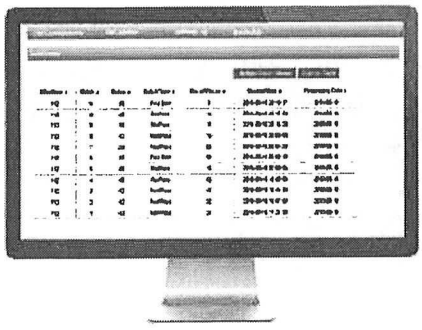
FINE SORT

- Sort ballots to desired separation level (precinct/ ballot style/other)
- Operator feeds individual groups of ballots
- Selectively open only accepted ballots*
- Detect duplicates within and across all Fine Sort batches

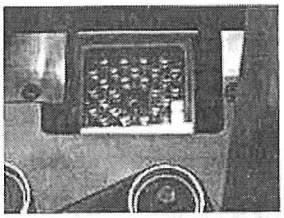
Note: *Indicates optional features

Dashboard and Admin Functions

- Summary dashboard of all batches delivers quick overview of overall processing status
- Advanced lookup options provide full processing history by ID and current status
- Duplicate resolution feature includes hyperlinks to images for further investigation
- Freeform Notes field for each batch simplifies communication with broader team
- Tiered access rights may be configured for each process step
- Multiple export options available to suit individual process needs
- Audit log may be exported at any time
- User configurable features support workflow changes without code changes/ custom software versions

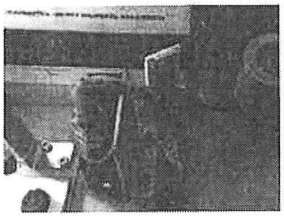


Optional Features



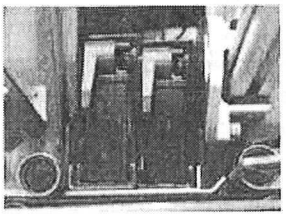
Doubles Detector

- Useful for diverting envelopes that maybe stuck together, ensuring all pieces are correctly handled
- Image-based detection of double edges identifies true double-feed conditions



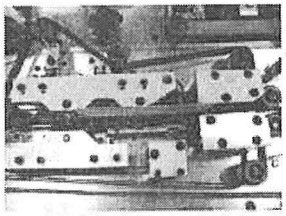
Thickness Detector

- Useful for diverting envelopes with more than the expected number of ballots
- Laser based thickness detector identifies differences down to one sheet of paper
- User-configurable thresholds



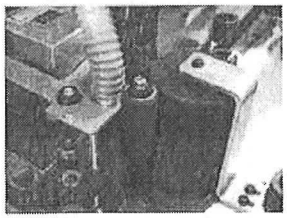
Inkjet Printer

- Print date, time and custom message on the envelope with no loss in throughput
- Minimal maintenance and easy cartridge replacement
- Optional continuous inkjet for very high volume applications



Inline Opener

- Inline opening without content damage
- Ultra-fine depth adjustment
- Selective opening allows both good and challenged envelopes to be fed with only good envelopes opened
- Includes dust collector to minimize dust and efficiently collect paper chips



Inline Tab Remover

- Detect and remove privacy tabs at up to 8,000/hr (for 1" x 3" tabs), concurrent with sorting
- Ergonomic collection of removed tabs
- Advanced laser technology cuts single layer of paper, without damaging contents (Class 1 laser product)

Specifications

Item	Criterion Elevate
Cycle Speed (Throughput stated is for #10 envelopes, and will vary up/ down based on envelope size)	18,000/hr for #10 envelopes 8,000/hr (in tab removal mode)
Footprint with 16 2-Tier bins (not including cutter or tab removal module)	14.3' x 6.2'
Incremental length for additional 16 bin sections	56"
Power	208V 3-phase, amperage requirements vary depending on configuration
Air	No air required with cartridge printers
Envelope sizes	Height: 3.5" – 7.0" (up to 13" with optional flats kit) Length: 5.0" – 11.5" Thickness: 0.007" – 0.250"
VBM Data Review Client Software for image review	Yes
VDM Server Software (Data Review and Inbound) for EMS interface, audit logs, detailed lookups	Yes
SABRE with optional Automated Signature Verification	Yes
First Pass, Repass and Fine Sort operations	Yes
Integrity Package (Thickness and Doubles Detector)	Yes
Selective inline opener with vacuum	Yes
Printer	Cartridge or Continuous inkjet
Inline Tab Removal (Uses a laser in a Class 1 enclosure for safe use) with fume extraction	Yes