

## Commissioners examine possible lottery conflict

By KELLEY SHANNON Associated Press Writer © 2010 The Associated Press

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AUSTIN, Texas — The president and CEO of GTECH Corp., the state's lottery vendor, apologized for his company having a contract with a consultant that was also helping the Texas Lottery Commission write its major bid proposal.

Jaymin Patel told lottery commissioners Thursday there was no information sharing between the two companies about the Texas lottery and "there was no conflict of interest."

Gartner Inc. helped Texas write bidding rules but also had another contract with a division of GTECH in Rhode Island. That dual role by Gartner is raising questions about whether GTECH has a competitive advantage in winning Texas' upcoming contract.

Gartner also says there was no malfeasance. The Gartner contracts with the lottery and with GTECH have been canceled.

Lottery commission attorney Bob Bierd says an internal review found no evidence of any improper information sharing.