

## SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Office of Acquisition Operations  
Technology Acquisition Center  
1701 Directors Blvd  
Austin, TX 78744

2. **Description of Action:** The proposed sole source action is for a firm-fixed price (FFP) purchase order to obtain wired telephone services for the Office of Information and Technology (OIT), Enterprise Operations (EO), Quantico Information Technology Center (QITC). QITC needs continued services for existing telephones located in Quantico, VA, and Culpepper, VA. The proposed action is for an 8-month base period and one 6-month option period. The type of funds being used are Franchise Funds.

3. **Description of Supplies or Services.**

QITC requires wired telephone services for use by its field employees, including the following service types: Dial Tone Lines, Plain Old Telephone Service (POTs), Primary Rate Interfaces (PRI) and Basic Rate Interface (BRI), Direct Inward Dialing (DID) Traffic, Directory Listing Services, Foreign, and Domestic. The Contractor shall provide telecommunication services at each facility 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year with a service availability rate of 99.99%. [REDACTED]

4. **Authority Cited.**

FAR 13.106-1(b)(1)

For purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold. Contracting officers may solicit from one source if the contracting officer determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available.

5. **Reason for Authority Cited.**

The proposed source for this action is Verizon Federal  
220001 Loudoun County Pkwy C 2 1  
Ashburn, VA 20147

The proposed action is to continue wired telephone services for the QITC. Based on previous VA policy, many local phone services were managed as utilities and contractors were administratively paid. For QITC, the current

## QITC Local Calling

administrative funding expires on September 30, 2013 and VA policy prohibits these services from being administratively paid. In order to avoid a break in service, the incumbent contractor must continue to provide the services until such time VA completes a competitive source selection for local services based on a planned VA national telecommunications strategy. Transition to any other contractor than the incumbent during the interim period would not be economical or efficient. The transition time to change to another provider is 45-60 days and could potentially cause a break in service based on the October 1, 2013, required start date. Local phone services are critical for VA employee performance of day-to-day tasks to meet mission needs, and any break in service is unacceptable.

VA is planning (RFI Number VA118-13-I-0133) a national multiple award Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract. Award is expected in mid-to-late FY14 and will provide competition for all VA Local Exchange Carrier requirements. This sole source action will be used to obtain services only until the proposed national IDIQ is available. The planned 8-month base period was determined based on the planned IDIQ award date. It is not in the best interest of the Government or industry to incur direct transition costs and indirect costs involved with transitioning services to a new contractor for only a short period of time. The IDIQ order itself may require service transition at the QITC locations. Changing from Verizon to an interim-only solution would introduce significant and unnecessary risk to VA workforce productivity. In the interest of economy and efficiency, it is not feasible to use any other source before the planned IDIQ is available.

### **6. Efforts to Obtain Competition.**

There is only one responsible source for this item. Efforts made to locate additional sources are described under the Market Research paragraph of this document. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. Procurement data does not include any unnecessary requirements that may inhibit competition.

### **7. Actions to Increase Competition.**

A competitive technical data package is being prepared by OIT. It will not be available for this procurement; however, it is expected to be available by December 16, 2013.

### **8. Market Research.**

VA conducted market research in August 2013 to identify potential sources capable of meeting its requirement. This included reviewing and analyzing current services on the existing contract, and issuing a Request for Information (RFI). The current services at QITC are provided by Verizon, who is the only Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier facilities-based communication provider with

## QITC Local Calling

a point of presence at the Quantico National Cemetery locations. Based on market research from previous phone-service-related requirements, it is known that other vendors may be capable of providing services through agreements with Verizon, but that the transition time required can potentially range from 45-60 days. RFI Number VA118A-13-I-0373 was posted to the Federal Business Opportunities page on August 19, 2013. Interested firms were asked to provide comments on a draft Performance Work Statement (PWS), provide acknowledgement of their capabilities to provide the requirement, and provide answers to several questions. [REDACTED]

### 9. Interested Sources.

[REDACTED]

The solicitation covering this procurement will be synopsisized in the Federal Business Opportunities Page and any bids/proposals received will be evaluated.

