

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed price delivery order (DO) for the procurement of EMC equipment for the upgrade of the Region 3, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 6, email archiving system issued against the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC).
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to provide an upgrade to two of the Region 3/VISN 6 EMC Centera Content-Addressable Storage Systems (CAS) that support the email archiving application. The primary Centera CAS is located in the Richmond McGuire VA Medical Center (VAMC) and the backup replica is located in the Hampton VAMC. The two Centera's bi-directionally replicate to one another. The Centera in Richmond is one cluster containing one cube (Gen4LP 1TB w/16 nodes), 59.68TB Raw Capacity 29.84TB Mirrored. The Centera in Hampton is one cluster containing one cube (GEN4 500GB w/16 nodes). This procurement will provide the required upgrades to increase the capacity of the EMC Centera CAS systems. The primary CAS requires an additional Gen4LP cube to increase capacity to 181.37TB raw space, 90.68TB mirrored and the backup requires a new fully populated Centera rack with the same 181.37TB raw and 90.68TB mirrored capacity capabilities. The bidirectional data replication between the two site clusters shall not be interrupted by the vendor during the installation, implementation, configuration, and intra cluster data migration. The installed production application shall continue to have the ability to pull from either cluster as applicable. The total estimated value of the proposed action is \$630,000.00 (this action does not include options).
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled "Only one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized".
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: This is a brand name justification in support of FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. EMC storage equipment complies with VA system specifications and its features (scalability, node redundancy and built in site-to-site replication) allow VA to grow the in place cluster on the fly without any impact to the application. EMC brand name storage equipment is the only equipment that can continue to build upon VA's existing EMC-based email archiving system. Any other brand name storage equipment is unable to integrate with the currently fielded EMC Centera due to code differences as well as

cabling and configuration differences. No other brand name storage equipment will be interoperable or compatible with the currently fielded EMC CAS at the Richmond and Hampton VAMCs. Additionally, upgrading the systems with non-EMC equipment will void the warranty of the current systems. Only EMC supported storage equipment can ensure compatibility and the high availability required of the in place production email archiving system.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined however that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers on National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) for this brand name item. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2), this action will be synopsized at award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and the justification will be made publicly available.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research in July 2013 consisting of a sources sought notice and internet catalog searches, including SEWP.NASA.GOV, ThomasNet.com and manufacturer websites. The other similar storage equipment reviewed included IBM, HP and NetApp. Based on reviews of these products, the Government's technical experts determined that none of these products can meet the Government's interoperability and compatibility requirements previously discussed. Additionally, none of these other products can offer the added compatibility with the already installed cluster which is critical to the continued operation of the system and the application. Based on all of these market research efforts, the Government's technical experts have determined that only EMC brand name equipment can meet all of VA's needs.

9. Other Facts: Not applicable.

Email Archiving Storage System Upgrade

10. Technical and Requirements Certification: I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in this justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Hassan Benu

Date: 9/4/2013

VISN 6 Network Systems
Engineer

Signature: Hassan Benu

11. Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on price competition among NASA SEWP IV GWAC vendors. Prices will also be compared to the independent Government cost estimate. In addition, prices on SEWP have previously been determined to be fair and reasonable.

David Nostrant

Date: 9/5/2013

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: _____

12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed \$650,000, the certification below required by FAR 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(C)(1) serves as approval.

David Nostrant

Date: 9/5/2013

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: _____