

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724

2. Title of Acquisition: Active Strategy Software Maintenance Renewal

This requirement will be accomplished via:

☒ [X] New Purchase Order

Purchase Order will be:

☒ [X] Firm Fixed Price

Type of Funds:

☒ [X] IT FUNDS

3. Description of Supplies or Services:

☒ [X] Services

The proposed sole source action is for a one year firm-fixed price contract with the Advisory Board Company, 2445 Main Street NW, Washington, DC 20037 to renew the maintenance and support on the existing 500 Active Strategy Enterprise (ASE) licenses currently in use at the Veterans Health Administration Health Eligibility Center (HEC), Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO), VA Health Administration Center (HAC) and Office of Information Technology (OIT). This effort is to renew the maintenance and support on the existing 500 ASE licenses which help to automate, focus and deploy the current VHA Chief Business Office (CBO) strategic objectives by measuring, viewing, and managing performance that improves results with the creation and deployment of balanced scorecards, performance measurement, and strategic performance management frameworks.

Period of Performance: April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

4. Authority Cited:

☒ [X] Other Federal Acquisition Regulation Authority (FAR) 6.302-1

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C. 3304(a)(1) as implemented by FAR 6.302-1 entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."

5. Reason for Authority Cited:

Based on extensive market research, as described in paragraph 8 of this document, it was determined that only one responsible source is available for the aforementioned services. The CBO plans to continue its strategic execution by refining and expanding implementation of the Active Strategy Balanced Scorecard format, a system currently used by the HEC, VACO, HAC, and OIT. This software supports automation, focus, and deployment of VA strategic initiatives and program reports by providing: (1) the ability for personalized and distributed views for each member or group within VA to easily achieve its objectives, metrics and initiatives as well as a common method and system for collection of data and related project/initiative activities; (2) increased visibility for the ongoing review of strategic initiatives and metrics; and (3) execution of VA's critical strategies with enhanced precision, alignment and predictability. The CBO cannot perform its functions effectively and efficiently without valid ASE software licenses. There are currently no other software products in the marketplace that can perform the same functions as the ASE software. VA currently owns 500 ASE licenses and only ASE maintenance can be used for ASE products as the software licenses and associated support services are proprietary to The Advisory Board Company. The Advisory Board Company does not have affiliation or agreements in place with any authorized resellers to resolve technical problems and/or obtain The Advisory Board Company software updates, therefore The Advisory Board Company is the only responsible source that exists to complete this effort.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition:

There is only one responsible source for these services. Efforts made to locate additional sources are described under the Market Research paragraph of this document yielded no additional sources. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. Procurement data does not include any unnecessary requirements that may inhibit competition. Furthermore, in accordance with (IAW) FAR 5.301(a)(2), this action will not be synopsisized at award on the Federal Business Opportunity Page (FBO) due to the dollar threshold. IAW FAR 6.305(a) this Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition will be made publicly available on FBO within 14 days after contract award.

7. Actions to Increase Competition:

In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the marketplace that would enable future actions to be fully competed.

8. Market Research:

Market research was conducted by technical experts in January 2014.

[X] The market research consisted of the following:

Market research was conducted by posting a Request for Information (RFI) on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website on March 7, 2014. The RFI closed on March 10, 2014 with only The Advisory Board Company providing a response. The Advisory Board Company provided documentation stating there are no vendors that can provide the maintenance services for the ASE licenses on behalf of The Advisory Board Company as the software licenses and associated support services are proprietary to The Advisory Board Company and are not made available through any authorized resellers. Additionally, this is a support service contract for existing software the Government has already purchased. The Government technical experts have determined that no other maintenance can meet the requirements and that The Advisory Board Company is the only responsible source as it is the sole provider of ASE software licenses and associated support services.

9. Interested Sources:

[X] No other source has expressed written interest in supplying these services.