

LIMITED-SOURCES JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, NJ 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a 12-month firm-fixed-price (FFP) task order with four 12-month option periods for wireless voice and data services for existing devices and additional mobile devices for VA Central Office (VACO). This effort is being conducted under the authority of the Multiple Award Schedule Program. The proposed effort will be awarded under the General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) GS-35F-0503M to T-Mobile USA, Inc. (T-Mobile).
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is for continuing wireless voice and data services for existing devices and additional mobile devices from T-Mobile for VACO employees. In addition to voice and data services, required wireless voice and data services include Global International Roaming, Text Messaging, Tethering, Wireless Priority Service (WPS), and Global Positioning System Navigation. The associated devices include cellular devices, push-to-talk cellular devices, smartphones, and mobile broadband devices. VA requires the associated devices to have a Wi-Fi calling capability.
4. Authority Cited: This acquisition is conducted under the authority of the Multiple-Award Schedule Program. The specific authority providing for a limited source award is Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B), "Only one source is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized."
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is T-Mobile, 12920 Southeast 38th Street, Bellevue, WA 98061-1350. Due to issues relating to device and network interoperability, T-Mobile is the only vendor capable of providing a solution, including access to T-Mobile voice and data services, compatible mobile devices, and activation for mobile devices that meets all of VA's needs. In addition, T-Mobile is the only wireless company offering Wi-Fi calling. This service enables Senior Executives to have voice communications in buildings and rural areas where these services would otherwise not be possible. This Wi-Fi calling capability is a functional requirement for any mobile device a VA Senior Executive uses. No other brand name device can provide this functional capability.
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. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2), this action will be synopsisized at award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and the justification will be made publicly available.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: VACO Office of Information Technology (OIT) technical experts will continue to monitor the availability of wireless voice and data services that can meet VA's requirements in the future. When exercising any options, VA will conduct market research to determine if a change to the availability of these services warrants consideration of alternative competitive procurement strategies.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by the Technology Acquisition Center and OIT in April 2014. A Request for Information (RFI) was posted on the GSA FSS eBuy website to Information Technology Schedule 70 Special Item Number 132 53 (telecommunication transmission services) contract holders. Three responses were received from AT&T, Verizon Wireless, and T-Mobile. VA's technical experts reviewed the responses and determined that the responses from AT&T and Verizon Wireless could not meet all of VACO's needs. Specifically, AT&T did not provide a device that had a Wi-Fi calling capability nor do they offer plans that include global texting or global mobile to mobile calling. Additionally, AT&T does not offer an unlimited mobile broadband data plan that includes global access. Additionally, Verizon Wireless' response stated that they could not provide a device that had a Wi-Fi calling capability nor could they ensure that WPS calls would be connected. The Government's technical experts contacted AT&T and Verizon and advised them of the Government's assessment that they cannot meet all of VA's requirements. Both AT&T and Verizon agreed with the Government's assessment. While other sources had the general voice and data capabilities needed to perform the effort, only T-Mobile could meet all of the Government's requirements including Wi-Fi calling capability which is a critical requirement to provide continuity of voice and data services needed to support COOP. VA's technical experts performed additional market research by reviewing FSS vendor websites. It was confirmed that only T-Mobile possessed the infrastructure to perform Wi-Fi calling capability.

9. Other Facts: A lack of communications in any region negatively impacts VA's Senior Executives' and Presidential appointed officials' ability to meet the VA's continuity of service requirements for Continuity of Operations (COOP) critical communications.