

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed sole source action is for a firm-fixed price modification to Contract Number VA118-13-C-0068 with Accessibility Services, Inc. (ASI), 6360 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, Florida 34446 to expand the scope of the current contract to provide 19 portable hospital carts in support of the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Environmental Control Unit (ECU) Implementation at the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Houston, Texas; the James J. Peters VAMC in Bronx, New York; and the Edward Hines Jr. VAMC in Hines, Illinois.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed modification shall provide 19 portable hospital carts at the Michael E. DeBakey VAMC in Houston, Texas; the James J. Peters VAMC in Bronx, New York; and the Edward Hines Jr. VAMC in Hines, Illinois. The portable hospital carts are required to support the installation of the AutonoME ECU components when VA-owned hospital beds have been replaced with rental beds. VA-owned hospital beds can be modified to accommodate additional hardware components; however, rental beds cannot be modified under the terms of their rental agreements. The procurement of 19 portable hospital carts will allow ASI to continue with the originally planned installation of all ECUs at Michael E. DeBakey VAMC, James J. Peters VAMC and Edward Hines Jr. VAMC SCI units.

The AutonoME ECU is designed to help the most severely disabled Veterans by interfacing with items used in a hospital room setting such as the television, bed settings (up/down), and nurse call. The key to controlling these items is making alternative input methods accessible to these severely disabled Veterans. Examples of alternative input methods include voice recognition and sip n' puff technology. Installation of the AutonoME ECU requires the mounting of various hardware components to the hospital bed in order to support these alternative input methods (i.e. microphone for voice recognition, flexible arm with straw and switch box for sip n' puff, bed box to control bed settings). In the event that the regular hospital bed is temporarily replaced with a rental bed an alternative solution is needed in order for the Veteran to access the AutonoME ECU since VA is not authorized to make modifications to these beds per the rental agreement. The proposed solution includes a portable hospital cart which would have the flexible arm with straw and microphone mounted to it, as well as the sip n' puff switch and bed box connecting it to the master unit. While this would not include bed control, as it is intended to be a universal option as opposed to a specific rental bed make and model, it does allow the Veteran to access and control the AutonoME ECU via voice and/or sip n' puff. The same flexible arm with straw and microphone mount, sip n' puff switch and bed box are used as in the standard installation and have already been procured under this contract. This cart is specifically modified to be configurable with the AutonoME components.

Spinal Cord Injury Environmental Control Unit Implementation

The number of rental beds fluctuates at any given time due to patient demand. As such, the number of rental beds is impossible to determine. Therefore, portable hospital carts may be required at additional locations throughout the life of the contract to accommodate the utilization of rental beds at each hospital's SCI units.

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is Section 41 U.S.C. 3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The AutonoME ECU installation requirements outlined in the contract call for standard installation based on the assumption that VA owns the hospital beds in the SCI units and the ECU components (flexible arm with straw and microphone and sip n' puff switch and bed box) could be mounted to these beds. SCI units regularly utilize rental beds to care for Veterans with specialized conditions that cannot be accommodated with standard VA-owned hospital beds. As such, the portable hospital cart solution is necessary to mount the ECU components that cannot be mounted to the rental beds as VA is not authorized to make modifications to these beds per the rental agreement. The need for the portable hospital cart solution is a logical follow-on to the initial order and required to execute the requirements of the contract.

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 5.201 the proposed action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and this justification will be made publically available within 14 days after contract award in accordance with FAR 6.305(a). Any proposals that are received shall be evaluated.

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: Market research was performed in March 2014 by the Government's technical experts to determine the availability of other sources that would be capable of satisfying the aforementioned requirement. Since the portable hospital cart is specifically modified to be configurable with the placement of the AutonoME components being provided by ASI under the current contract, no sources were identified that could meet VA's requirement. Based on market research results, the Government's technical experts have determined that only ASI can provide a modified portable hospital cart that can meet VA's needs.

9. Other Facts: None.