

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, NCO 23, St. Cloud VA Health care System, 4801 Veterans Drive St. Cloud, MN 56303, 618-14-1-4008-0336. This is a justification for other than full and open competition.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** Firm fixed price purchase order for renewal of base plus 4 option years, membership to Health Devices Gold from Emergency Care Research Institute (ECRI) for Minneapolis VA Healthcare System.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**  
Health Devices Gold membership renewal from ECRI which provides MVAHCS Biomed staff access to important information and data about medical technology and other biomedical engineering subjects. The information gained by the ECRI subscriptions directly supports Biomedical Engineering's ability to perform the following functions at MVAHCS:
  - Patient Safety, Quality and Risk Management
  - Technology Planning and Assessment
  - Technology Acquisition Support (i.e., Market Research, Technical Specifications, etc.)
  - Biomedical Technology Program Management

**Estimated Cost:** [REDACTED]

**Estimate Period of Performance:** Base Year 6/1/14 to 5/31/15

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**
  - (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
  - (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
  - (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
  - (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
  - (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
  - (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
  - (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**  
For 45 years, ECRI Institute, a nonprofit organization, has been dedicated to bringing the discipline of applied scientific research to discover which medical procedures, devices, drugs, and processes are best, to improve patient care. No other vendors provide a similar membership.

Minneapolis Biomed has been utilizing ECRI for over 25 years. The subscription has allowed for the building of an ECRI library with information from periodical and database updates that have occurred over multiple years. Without renewal the library and on-line data would be lost and no longer available for Biomed use.

ECRI is the only vendor that can provide healthcare technology management and other biomedical engineering program management support services that meet the requirements of government. There are no other publishers that can provide on-line and periodical based patient safety, technology planning, and management

that meet the requirements. Only through the renewal of the subscription to ECRI Health Devices - Gold package, will MVAHCS Biomed be capable of continuing access to this service. If healthcare technology management subscription services from another publisher were acquired, MVAHCS would lose access to the historical data and support Biomedical Engineer staff use routinely in the course of the duties. MVAHCS medical technology planning, assessment, and acquisition support would be significantly reduced and delayed. The current staff is already trained and maintains access on the current system. ECRI is the only vendor that can meet the requirements of the government.

6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:

Market research was conducted to determine if any other sources were available to supply this membership.

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:

The Contracting Officer will determine the price to be fair and reasonable.

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:

Market research was conducted in March 2014. It included a search of the Internet using Google, Bing, and GSA Advantage, and the ECRI Sourcebook. Vendors which can provide on-line and periodical based subscription services for healthcare technology management and other biomedical engineering program management include ECRI, Medical Consultant Network (MCN), and FDA. However, MCN and FDA are not comprehensive subscription services; they provide only policy and procedure guidance or only medical equipment recall data. And neither provides the technology planning, product reviews, and acquisition support subscription services required by the government. Only ECRI provides a full complement of the subscription services required, all other products would result in duplicative costs to the government. ECRI is the only vendor that can meet the requirements of the government

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition: N/A

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition: ECRI

11. A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required:

If other qualified companies become available to provide this membership in the future, a competitive solicitation will be issued.

12. Requirements Certification: I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Redacted Signature]

5/2/2014  
Date

Director, Biomedical Instrumentation Dept.  
Minneapolis VA Healthcare System

13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304

- a. Contracting Officer's Certification (required): I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Redacted Signature]

Contracting Officer, NCO 23 – St. Cloud

5/5/2014  
Date

- b. NCM/PCM (Required \$3K and above): I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition and I approve this justification.

[Redacted Signature]

Product Line Contract Manager, NCO 23 – St. Cloud

2 MAY 14  
Date

