

JUSTIFICATION
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

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 the procurement of Cisco Systems Inc. (Cisco) brand name equipment for the Wireless and Local Area Network (LAN) architecture at the new Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System (VCBHCS) located in Texas that encompasses twenty counties comprised of the Laredo, McAllen, Harlingen, and Corpus Christi service areas. This will be a firm-fixed-price Delivery Order (DO) issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC). Delivery is required 30 days from award of the DO.

3. Description of Supplies or Services: The proposed acquisition is required to meet the needs of the VCBHCS caregivers by providing wireless architecture equipment to the Harlingen Care Center and the Laredo, McAllen, and Corpus Christi Specialty clinics. The wireless infrastructure will allow the use of mobile devices at the point of care. In addition, the wireless infrastructure will assist in asset management through the use of the Real Time Location System. This acquisition for Cisco brand name equipment is to ensure interoperability with an existing Cisco Secure Access Control Server Appliance which is fully compatible with the VA's existing Public Key Infrastructure.

The required equipment ensures that the Wi-Fi systems operate in an 802.11i Enterprise mode rather than 802.11i Personal mode. This system provides a standard solution across the enterprise that is centrally managed which meets VA Handbook 6500 and the National Institute of Science and Technology Special Publication 800-97 (Robust Security Networks: A Guide to 802.11i) guidelines specific to meeting an 802.11i Enterprise Security Solution for Wireless communications in VA. FIPS 140-2 validation of encryption components is required by Federal law.

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) 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. No other manufacturer builds components that either interoperate with or are able to be integrated into the existing Cisco Secure Access Control Server Appliance.

Wireless Infrastructure Equipment

The brand name hardware needed for this procurement must be supported by and interoperate with the existing wide area and local area networks at the Laredo, Harlingen, McAllen and Corpus Christi clinics. The required Cisco brand equipment is the only hardware that is compatible and will integrate with the existing Cisco hardwired network to enable the current LANs to include a wireless component.

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 for the required brand name equipment. 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: 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 Office of Information and Technology Service Delivery and Engineering (SDE) Field Operations Service Lines routinely conduct market research for compatibility and interoperability of multiple brand name products. Products offered by Brocade/Foundry, Juniper, and Nortel were reviewed by SDE technical experts. The experts determined through interoperability studies that only certified Cisco brand name hardware will meet the technical requirements for this project. No other manufacturer builds components that either interoperate with or are able to be integrated into the existing Cisco network architecture.

After determining the specific equipment requirements, VA technical experts conducted market research by issuing a Request for Information through NASA SEWP on January 17, 2014 to all Contract groups. Nine responses were received to the request of which five responses were from NASA SEWP IV small business contract holders. Additionally, VA networking Subject Matter Experts regularly review industry trade publications and conduct internet research to ascertain if any other brand name hardware can meet the VA's needs. Based on all of these market research efforts, the Government's technical experts have determined that only Cisco brand name hardware can meet all of VA's needs.

Wireless Infrastructure Equipment

Additionally, market research was conducted using the NASA SEWP Manufacturer lookup tool, and it was determined that there are 37 resellers of Cisco products and services. Five of the 37 resellers are service-disabled Veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) Value Added Resellers (VARs) in Group B and nine are Small Business Set-Aside VARs in Group C.

9. Other Facts: None.

Wireless Infrastructure Equipment

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.

Name: Orville A. Fameree

Date: 6 May 2014

Title: FCIO

Signature: orville.fameree
@va.gov

Digitally signed by
orville.fameree@va.gov
DN: cn=orville.fameree@va.gov
Date: 2014.05.06 07:44:59 -05'00'

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. Contracts awarded on NASA SEWP IV GWAC have already been determined to be fair and reasonable. The successful quote will also be compared to the Independent Government Cost Estimate.

Name Debra G. Clayton

Date: 5/6/14

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.

Name Debra G. Clayton

Date: 5/6/14

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: 