

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval
For
Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Program Contracting Activity Central (PCAC), 6150 Oak Tree Boulevard, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 and the VA Central Office (VACO) Library offer this Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition via Purchase Request #776-14-3-3102-0216.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:**
This request is for the purchase of subscription services from EBSCO Host. The products, Business Source Premier and MEDLINE with Full Text, are online databases used to search journals for information on specific topics. EBSCO is the authoritative source and the only source that allows the purchase of these subscriptions.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**
The Business Source Premier and MEDLINE subscription products are authoritative online databases used for researching a variety of topics. Search results include the journal citations that either have summaries or are linked to the actual full-text article. These databases are used to answer research questions received by VACO library staff and are also available to VACO employees who want to do their own research.

a. Business Source Premier

This is one of the industry's most authoritative business research databases, featuring full text for more than 2,100 journals. Full text is provided from 1965 to present, and searchable cited references are available from 1998 to present. Business Source® Premier's full text coverage includes business disciplines, including marketing, management, accounting, finance and economics. Additional full text, non-journal content includes market research reports, industry reports, country reports, company profiles and SWOT analyses. Regional Business News™ is a supplemental database for customers of Business Source Premier, provided at no additional charge. With daily updates, Regional Business News provides comprehensive full text for regional U.S. and Canadian business publications (including titles from Crain Communications). Regional Business News has full text for nearly 100 sources.

b. MEDLINE with/ Full Text

MEDLINE® with Full Text provides authoritative health sciences information on medicine, nursing, dentistry, public health, pre-clinical sciences, etc. MEDLINE® with Full Text searches over 4,800 current biomedical journals, providing full text for 1,470 journals. This wide-ranging database contains full text for many of the most used journals in the health sciences fields back to 1965.

The estimated cost for the subscription service follows:

Base Year:	\$45,630.00
Option Year 1:	\$48,368.00
Option Year 2:	\$51,270.00
Option Year 3:	\$54,346.00
Option Year 4:	\$57,607.00
Total with Options:	\$300,268.00

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**
The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 USC §253(c)(1), as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.302-1, titled "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**
EBSCO Publishing aggregates source material from third-party publishers and creates associated abstracts and indexes for such material to create the databases. These databases are derivative works as defined under the Copyright Act of 1976, Title 17 U.S.C. and are therefore subject to copyright protection. EBSCO Publishing is the sole source provider of the proprietary EBSCOhost databases, including Business Source Premier and MEDLINE. The overall content offered in these databases represents a unique collection of material not available in this form from other vendors. EBSCO does not license these databases or the EBSCO host platform to other distributors. The content provided by the EBSCOhost databases is critical to research efforts made by VACO staff. Additionally, a formal notice (attached) was submitted by EBSCO confirming the vendor is the sole source provider of the resources via the EBSCOhost proprietary search platform.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:**
Intent to Sole Source was posted to FedBizOpps on April 18, 2014 with any responses to the notice due by April 28, 2014. Zero responses were received. EBSCO is the only source for these subscriptions.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:**
The anticipated cost is fair and reasonable to the government based on the fact that it is open market pricing and offered at the same rates available via Library of Congress Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK), Direct Express program. The cost includes a 6% increase every year through all option years, as did the previous contract for these services.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:**
A notice of Intent to Sole Source was posted to FedBizOpps on April 18, 2014 with any responses to due by April 28, 2014. Zero responses were received. Market research was also conducted via the Internet to determine if other vendors have access to these databases. The research confirmed that EBSCO is the only source.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:**
None
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**
There were no other sources that expressed in writing an interest in the acquisition – refer to Section 6, above.
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:**
None at this time due to the fact that the EBSCO is the only source for the journals and offers the best value to the government.
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.



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.



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

