

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: This proposed action is for a sole source, firm-fixed price (FFP) task order issued under the General Services Administration (GSA) Information Technology Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) 70 for brand name Environmental Systems Research, Inc. (ESRI) ArcGIS software licenses and associated maintenance supporting the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) program at the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) Austin, Texas. The period of performance for this action is 12 months for software licenses and associated maintenance, inclusive of software delivery 30 days after task order award. 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-5086H to ESRI Inc., 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373-8118.

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA CDW program has a requirement for ESRI ArcGIS software licenses. There is a need for 36 licenses for core expansion and for 13 end user concurrent licenses for the client side. All 49 licenses shall include one year of maintenance. The ArcGIS software enables researchers to identify geographic areas where outbreaks occur or large populations are affected by chronic disease in the Veteran population. This enables VA to focus treatment planning and prevention training in those areas to reduce disease and improve overall care for Veterans. ArcGIS is the only Global Information System (GIS) software that has the Enterprise Data capabilities to handle CDW's data. VA has five terabytes of relevant medical data updated nightly and 35 terabytes of imagery that is constantly growing as imagery is taken and consumed. To support that level of activity and to allow those with medical expertise to participate in these analytics, additional licenses are required.

4. Statutory Authority: 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: VA has one of the largest patient record data sets for medical research in the United States. VA requires tools that enable their researchers the ability to analyze and extract meaningful information from extremely large data sets. It is not uncommon for some of VA's data sets to reach the five terabyte mark. There is no GIS package software other than ArcGIS that handles the vast amounts of data required by VA and has sufficient support in place to ensure VA the required availability and reliability.

VA currently operates extensive GIS capabilities utilizing ArcGIS software. This acquisition is an expansion of the number of licenses within that application suite. It is not possible to expand the current GIS use base and GIS role by purchasing a different product's software license.

The existing VA ArcGIS system provides direct support to VA Secretary's 24/7 operations center and must be interoperable with other Federal systems such as Homeland Security and other National Security partners. These partners all operate ESRI supported ArcGIS, thus VA must also remain ArcGIS based to retain that interoperability.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document in paragraph 8 below. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this effort. Additionally, in accordance with FAR 5.3, the contract award will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website. In addition, this justification will be made publicly available on FBO within 14 days after award.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will work with the program office to perform additional market research so that other solutions can be considered.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted in second quarter fiscal year 2014 by CDW via reviewing various websites and trade publications and conducting discussions with data managers and researchers in VA to ascertain if there are other similar items that can meet the Government's requirements. Specifically, VA technical experts from CDW researched software from various GIS software vendors however, none of these companies' software offers support for the ESRI platform, nor do they meet VA's functional needs for a GIS analytic product. The other products in this geospatial space are display products not analytic products, such as OpenGeo, Google Earth, Pitney Bowes, and Intergraph. Additionally, market research was conducted reviewing FSS Schedule 70 vendors capable of providing the required license and maintenance and determined that only ESRI is capable of satisfying the requirements. As of January 2014, there are no new entrants in the marketplace.

Additional market research was conducted via posting a Request for Information (RFI) on the FBO website on April 02, 2014. Specifically, the RFI requested sources that could provide brand name or equal capabilities as the ESRI ArcGIS software, particularly the ability to handle data past the 35 terabyte mark, location analytics capability, and interoperability with other Federal systems such as Homeland Security and other National Security partners. On April 07, 2014, zero responses were received. Based on the RFI responses, it has been determined that there is no comparable software to ESRI ArcGIS that meets the Government's requirements.

9. Other Facts: None.