

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Acquisition Operations
Office of Acquisition Business Service
425 I St NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001

2. Description of Action:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Acquisition Operations, Acquisition Business Service on behalf of the Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC) proposes to enter into a noncompetitive, sole source contract with the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) to procure conference services for the Office of Acquisition Logistics and Construction (OALC). The OALC has a requirement to participate in conferences that focus on the development of contracting professionals.

3. Description of Supplies or Services:

This requirement is to secure thirty-four (34) seats at the NCMA World Congress for 2014 being held in Washington, DC on July 27-30, 2014. In accordance with the VA's Conference policies and guidelines, all applicable statutes and regulations, NCMA's primary function is to serve as a repository of knowledge by providing tools and resources to enable entry, development, and advancement for the contract management profession. The goals and objectives are to learn current tools necessary to deal with various contract changes and issues, as well as strategies of how to resolve contract problems. Additionally, the NCMA World Congress 2014 provides contracting professionals with the opportunity to network with over 1,500 Government contracting professionals from across the nation.

This conference provides a number of sessions that will allow the contracting professionals to gain knowledge and understanding about the contracting arena, and improve overall contracting practices. Attendees will gain, in a seminar setting, the ability to reduce the research time and costs associated with educational conferencing to supplement acquisition training. Analysis has confirmed that the cost for a normal stand-alone, 90-minute training is \$126.00 per 1.5 continuous learning points (CLP). However, this conference offers the opportunity for VA's contracting professionals to earn 20 CLPs at a rate of \$83.34 per CLP for approximately 525 minutes of training. The approach saves the Government time and money; as opposed to training courses of this nature being taken individually. This conference contributes to meeting the acquisition and procurement training needs of the VA's contracting professionals.

4. Statutory Authority:

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(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:

NCMA is the only organization that offers the World Congress training that provides VA's contracting professionals up to date information on recent and pending legislation, federal budget impacts, industry changes, best contracting and business practices, and acquisition trends. NCMA leads and represents the contracting profession, and provides unparalleled access to industry and Government-wide conferences, networking opportunities, certifications, and informational webinars not available by other national associations that represent members of the acquisition community. NCMA is the *only* organization that provides this type of training forum to the contracting community; therefore, a sole source acquisition pursuant to FAR 6.302-1 is required.

6. Other Facts:

Market research was conducted via the internet to identify any professional organizations capable of providing opportunities similar to those being provided by the NCMA World Congress 2014 under the NAICS code 611430-Professional and Management Development Training. In comparison to other published listing prices, NCMA was the only organization that provided this type of training at a rate that is lower and/or competitive to other published prices within the industry (see Table 6.1). Additionally, because the VA already participates as a member of the NCMA, VA's attendees are given discounted pricing under the Group Membership price list. The compiled market research indicated that NCMA is the only entity offering unique services for VA's contracting professionals training and exposure to improved acquisition visibility, business development outreach, and faster public resources in relation to industry updates and procurement practices. As such, NCMA is the only national organization of its kind that provides public and private organizations the essential forum for industry interaction in the form of the NCMA World Congress 2014. The type of expert training and exposure provided by NCMA directly contributes to the VA's organizational success in meeting training needs.

Table 6.1

Market Research: vendors for Contracting

Group/Vendor	Factor 1-Training	Factor 2-Cost Per Day
Federal Publications Seminars (FPS)	Contracting	\$625.00
Learning Resources Network (LEARN)	Contracting	\$231.70
National Contract Management Association (NCMA)	Contracting	\$223.75

MR Source Data Google – Federal Government Contracting
Training/Conference/Seminars

<http://www.google.com>

The Sole Source Justification and Approval will be posted to the Government-wide Point of Entry (GPE) within 14 days after contract award as required by FAR 6.305(a) and will remain posted for 30 days as per FAR 6.305(d)(3).

(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 conducted through review of available professional associations and industry organizations offering similar type conferences and trainings for acquisition professionals to participate in community events. Analysis indicated that NCMA is the only source that provides public and private organizations the essential forum for industry interaction to provide the structure, name recognition, and products directly to contracting professionals, as well as enable other entities such as researchers, consultants trainers, recruiters, advertisers and universities to gain broad access to defined segments of the VA's acquisition community practice. Market research indicated that NCMA is the only source capable of supplying the conference services to meet the VA's OALC requirement. No other suppliers were found that provide the unique access to the NCMA having significantly lower expenses.

(9) Other Facts

NCMA is the only provider of the World Congress 2014 conference that offers special discounted rates for its members. Concurrently, NCMA is the only provider of services and access to the acquisition community by virtue of its position as a professional association representing acquisition professionals. This is the only source that satisfies and possesses the capabilities to provide these unique services to the VA's contracting organizations.

(10) Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination:

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(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."

(11) 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.

I CERTIFY THAT THE FACTS AND REPRESENTATIONS UNDER MY COGNIZANCE, INCLUDED IN THIS JUSTIFICATION, WHICH FORM THE BASIS FOR THIS JUSTIFICATION, ARE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE.

TECHNICAL COGNIZANCE:

Signature:

Name Robert A. Wilson
Title Executive Assistant

Date 6/20/14

REQUIREMENTS COGNIZANCE:

Signature:

Name Joan Dixon
Title Contract Specialist

Date 06/23/2014

(12) Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: Select the corresponding wording based on the FAR authority being cited.

For a proposed contract exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold but not exceeding \$650,000, the contracting officer's certification required by FAR 6.303-2(b)(12) will serve as approval. 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 6.303-2(b)(12) serves as approval.

Signature:

Name
Title

Date