DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 07, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center (CNVAMC), Medical Research (24) Department, submission of new action, transaction 509-14-3-616-0053, for procurement of a Water "Pouch Making" unit at an estimated cost of $93,802.00.

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** The Hydroseal Pouch Machines is critical to the Medical Research Department to keep animals alive currently used in various research projects. This equipment will be used during any type of emergency/crisis where availability of staff is limited, the bottle-washing machine for animal feeding was non-operational, or where water systems were compromised.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The CNVAMC is in need of an emergency back-up water system that is compatible with the existing animal caging system currently in use in the Medical Research Department. The Hydroseal Pouch Machine description/capabilities are as follows:

   - Automated watering Hydroseal Pouch Machine produces up to 10 water filled hydropac pouches per minute (600 an hour).
   - Features a user friendly ergonomic touch screen control panel.
   - Produces either 13-ounce or 8-ounce (3384 or 236 ml) pouches in any quantity chosen
   - Easily moves from room to room for production runs in various locations.
   - Reduces labor, scientific variables, operating costs and ergonomic issues.
   - Compact mobile design can be connected to water supply at multiple locations.
   - Compliant with FDA Direct Food Contact Guidelines.
   - Ideal method to produce emergency water supplies.
   - Pouches store compactly for extended periods.

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Est. Cost
0001	Hydropac AWS – 2500 Pouch Machine	1	EA	$74,900.00
0002	Master Carton – 18,000 Sterile Valves w/9 Rolls of Hydroseal Pouch Film	1	EA	$9,882.00
0003	90-Day Warranty period on the Hydropac AWS	1	EA	N/C
0004	Delivery, Installation, and Training on the Hydropac AWS	1	EA	$6,370.00
0005	Preventative Maintenance Program (PM) Service – (pricing is calculated on a per PM service call. Customer is to determine number of service calls required per year)	1	EA	$2,450.00
	Shipping	1	EA	$200.00
	TOTAL ESTIMATED COST			**$93,802.00**

Type of procurement shall be a firm-fixed price. Shipping status is origin at an estimated cost of $200.00. When equipment arrives at the CNVAMC, the end user will contact the Contractor and notify the Contracting Officer of the time and date of installation and scheduling of training.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**
   (X) (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:** Technical experts in the Research Department searched the market and recommended the Hydropac AWS – 2500 Pouch Machine. This product allows the animal technicians to store water pouches in times of emergency conditions. It is designed to replace the use of water bottles on animal cages in cases of contaminated water and/or when water bottle equipment is non-operational. It is compatible with the caging system currently in use at CNVAMC Research Animal Department. Hydropac AWS /Lab Products is a small business and is the manufacturer and sole distributor of Hydropac products (see attached letter of exclusivity).

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** The technical experts researched the market for product requirements with findings of only one manufacturer. A sources sought notice was posted via FBO.gov with no responses. At this time it is unlikely that other commercial vendors could meet the government's need per the attached exclusivity letter from the manufacturer, Hydropac/Lab Products.

7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The Federal Procurement Database System revealed the following past procurements for the same equipment or products purchased: (1) 508-A40335 dated 2/14/2014 for master carton – 18000 sterile valves w/9 rolls of Hydroseal pouch film at $19,764.00, and (2) 509-3A5104 for a RAIR HD Super Mouse 750™ on 8/27/2013 at $86,825.27. The proposed cost of the new acquisition is consistent with past procurements and is considered fair and reasonable.

8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** The technical experts researched the market for product requirements with findings of only one manufacturer. A sources sought notice was posted with no responses. Per the exclusivity letter from the manufacturer (Hydropac/Lab Products), at this time it is unlikely that other commercial vendors could meet the government's need.

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition: Hydropac/Lab Products Inc. is the sole manufacture and distributor of the Hydropac AWS -2500 Pouch Machine and accessories per exclusivity letter.

10. 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: The agency will continue to monitor the market and government sources for competition opportunities and product development.

11. 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.

Name: Marie J. Andrews
Title: Administrative Officer
Facility: CNVAMC/Research

7/11/14
Date July 11, 2014

12. 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.

Laurinda N. Millage — 8/1/2014

Name: Laurinda N. Millage
Title: Supervisory Contracting Officer
Facility: Augusta, Georgia - Site Team – VISN 07

Date

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

NWF HY Howard — 8/18/14

Name: Howard Y. Prudence
Director of Contracting
VISN 07

Date