

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Justification and Approval**

**For**

**Other Than Full and Open Competition**

**1. Contracting Activity:**

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)  
Service Area Office (SAO) - East  
323 North Shore Drive, Suite 500  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**Requiring Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 1  
VA Boston Healthcare System  
Jamaica Plain Campus  
Boston, MA 02130

**2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:**

The VA Boston Healthcare System would like to purchase the Siemens Prisma Fit system to upgrade the existing Siemens Magnetom Trio 3T MRI system, located at the Huntington Ave campus in Boston, MA. The Siemens Prisma fit upgrade will enhance the research capabilities of the existing Siemens Trio MRI system, and the end result will be identical to a new Magnetom Prisma system in all functionalities. This will be awarded as a new firm fixed price contract. This requirement is fully funded 2237#523-14-3-8184-0035.

**3. Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**

The VA Boston Healthcare System is requesting to have an upgrade to the existing Magnetom Trio MRI system. The upgraded system that will be purchased is the Prisma Fit and is sold by Siemens Healthcare, USA, located at 51 Valley Stream Pky, Malvern PA. The upgrades are manufactured on demand and can only be provided through Siemens Healthcare. This is the only available upgrade compatible with the existing equipment. The Prisma Fit upgrade will enhance the capabilities of the current Magnetom Trio MRI system. Improving image signal/noise ratios and imaging speed is most evident in advanced neuro imaging, but also in body, spine and orthopedic imaging. The upgrade will provide improvements in speed and image quality of functional MRI of the brain, i.e. BOLD imaging, Diffusion Tensor Imaging, and tractography, proton and multi-nuclear spectroscopy. The upgrade recycles the existing magnet and provides new magnet covers, new patient table, new high speed CPUs and image processors, a new RF system with new ultra-high density surface coils, new gradient coil and power supplies, new operators console(s), new operational software and new support cabinets.

The total estimated value of the upgrade is \$1,864,141.00. This estimate was based on Contractor pricing. Comparing other products and prices would vary due to the differences in technology and are not comparable to this requirement. Additional price reductions will be requested prior to award ensuring the best possible price is obtained.

**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):**

Over the last several years, investigators throughout the VA and now the TRACTS Research Center have become increasingly interested in the use of neuroimaging as a primary research methodology. These research techniques involve the use of MRI as a primary research tool for evaluation of brain anatomy, physiology and function. MRI has been particularly effective in assessment of TBI, and many ongoing research studies rely on MRI for valuable data in the assessment and subsequent effective treatments of TBI and related stress disorders.

Recent improvements in MRI technology, primarily in the areas of gradient and RF technologies, have enabled significant improvements in existing imaging techniques and applications, as well as implementing new capabilities and applications- particularly in brain imaging, brain mapping and functional imaging of the brain. The Prisma upgrade provides the necessary hardware to implement these new or improved imaging techniques and applications.

This requirement is a continuation of the original MRI system that was ordered against (V797P-60298). It is imperative to maintain the consistency of this system among the users so that minimal disruption to patient care is maintained.

**6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:**

Siemens is the only manufacture of a compatible upgrade for the existing Siemens equipment. However, a Sources Sought notice was published on FBO and there were no responses received.

**7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:**

The cost to upgrade this equipment is estimated at \$1.8M and a new system is estimated at \$2.6M which saves a little over 30% and includes a 1 year warranty on the upgrade. This is a more cost efficient method versus purchasing a new piece of equipment. The life of the equipment will be extended without incurring the cost and time to replace such a large system. Additional discounts will be requested prior to award to ensure the best possible price is obtained for this upgrade.

**8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted**

A sources sought notice was published to seek interested parties and no responses were received.

**9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:**

The Siemens Prisma Upgrade will keep the magnet in place and new components will be installed around the magnet. This will minimize cost, as no major Infrastructure Improvements or modifications will be required, and it will minimize downtime, which will allow quicker access to the device as the upgrade will take approximately 3 weeks while a system replacement will take a minimum of 4 weeks. The end result will be a device that is similar, in all ways, to a brand new Magnetom Prisma. The Prisma and Prisma fit are the most advanced commercially available 3T MRI systems available today. They include the following specifications, which are noted if they are an industry exclusive:

- 64 Independent RF Receive Channels with 128 Channels as an optional item (industry exclusive).
- Gradient performance of simultaneous 80 mT/m max amplitude and Slew Rate of 200 T/m/sec (industry exclusive).
- 550 lb. Patient table loading capacity.
- Dedicated 16 Channel orthopedic coils for maximum signal/noise and parallel imaging performance (industry exclusive).
- Tim TX TrueShape with ZOOMIt RF transmit technology (industry exclusive).
- Direct RF technology (industry exclusive).
- Dual Density Signal Transfer technology (industry exclusive).
- New local RF coils with Direct Connect™ and Slide Connect™ technology (industry exclusive).
- State-of-the-art measurement and image reconstruction technologies.
- Optional 64 Channel Head and Neck Coil (industry exclusive).
- Day Optimized Throughput (DOT) Engines for streamlining scan and patient setup and minimization or elimination of MR Technologist errors. Note that the Brain Dot Engine and Large Joint DOT Engine are included in the Siemens proposal, while others are optional. (industry exclusive).
- 18 Channel lightweight, flexible Body Coil that combines with 12 Channels of the Spine 32 Coil to produce 30 Channel Body imaging (industry exclusive).
- FreezeIT technology- which enables both free breathing liver imaging without motion artifacts and precise multi-arterial liver imaging with 100% precise contrast timing (industry exclusive)
- QuietSuite, which enables complete, quiet exams for Neurological and orthopedic imaging with at least a 70% reduction in sound pressure

**10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

"See Section VI 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:**

A Sources Sought notice was posted and there were no interested parties. Both the Requesting service and Contract Activity put forth their due diligence to ensure competition requirements could have been met.

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.

Regina McGlinchey, Ph.D.  
Director, TBI Center of Excellence (TRACTS)  
VA Boston Healthcare System, Jamaica Plain Campus

6/2/2014  
Date

13. **Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.504**

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Bridget Kornish  
Contracting Officer  
SAO East

6/2/2014  
Date

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

Scott Fiscus  
Deputy Director, Acting  
Service Area Office (SAO) - East

6/8/14  
Date

- c. **SAO (If over \$50K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

Jeffery R. Ryan  
Director, Acting  
Service Area Office, East

6/18/2014  
Date

- d. **VHA HCA Review and Approval:** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and recommend approval (if over \$12.5 million) or approve (\$50K to \$12.5 million) for other than full and open competition.

Norbert Doyle  
Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer  
VHA Head of Contracting Activity (HCA)

6/23/14  
Date