

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: This proposed action is for a modification to firm-fixed price Contract Number VA118-13-C-0068 to expand the scope of the current contract to provide 116 additional Environmental Control Units (ECUs), installation, configuration, testing and acceptance, and 10 head trackers, eye gaze with transferrable mounting systems in support of the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) ECU Implementation at James A. Haley Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Tampa, Florida and Louis Stokes VAMC in Cleveland, Ohio. This modification will also expand the scope of this contract to include a total of 54 portable hospital carts in support of the SCI ECU Implementation at Boston Healthcare System in Brockton, Massachusetts; Miami VAMC in Miami, Florida; HH McGuire VAMC in Richmond, Virginia; Augusta VAMC in Augusta, Georgia; James A. Haley VAMC in Tampa, Florida; VA New Jersey Healthcare System in East Orange, New Jersey; Louis Stokes VAMC in Cleveland, Ohio; VA South Texas Healthcare System in San Antonio, Texas; and VA North Texas Healthcare System in Dallas, Texas.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed modification shall provide an additional 116 ECUs, installation, configuration, testing and acceptance and an additional 10 head trackers, eye gaze with transferrable mounting systems in support of the SCI ECU Implementation at James A. Haley VAMC in Tampa, Florida and Louis Stokes VAMC in Cleveland, Ohio for SCI patients functioning with limited mobility. The current contract provides for the same ECU technology at 22 VAMCs and Healthcare System facilities. This effort will provide the appropriate number of ECUs and head trackers, eye gaze with transferrable mounting systems to these facilities as the current contract for ECU deployment did not adequately account for the number of beds at James A. Haley VAMC and Louis Stokes VAMC.

The proposed modification shall also provide 54 portable hospital carts at Boston Healthcare System in Brockton, Massachusetts; Miami VAMC in Miami, FL; HH McGuire VAMC in Richmond, Virginia; Augusta VAMC in Augusta, Georgia; James A. Haley VAMC in Tampa, Florida; VA New Jersey Healthcare System in East Orange, New Jersey; Louis Stokes VAMC in Cleveland, Ohio; VA South Texas Healthcare System in San Antonio, Texas; and VA North Texas Healthcare System in Dallas, TX. The portable hospital carts are required to support the installation of the Accessibility Services, Inc.'s AutonoME ECU components when VA-owned hospital beds have been replaced with rental beds. VA-owned hospital beds can be modified to accommodate additional hardware components; however, rental beds cannot be modified under the terms of their rental agreements. The procurement of 54 portable hospital carts will allow ASI to continue with the originally planned installation of all ECUs at Boston

Healthcare System, Miami VAMC, HH McGuire VAMC, Augusta VAMC, James A. Haley VAMC, VA New Jersey Healthcare System, Louis Stokes VAMC, VA South Texas Healthcare System and VA North Texas Healthcare System SCI units. The AutonoME ECU is designed to help the most severely disabled Veterans by interfacing with items used in a hospital room setting such as the television, bed settings (up/down), lights, phone, and nurse call. The key to controlling these items is making alternative input methods accessible to these severely disabled Veterans. The AutonoME ECU technology provides a wide variety of alternative input methods to accommodate Veterans with all types of disabilities. These alternative methods include voice recognition, touchscreen, sip n' puff, eye gaze, and head tracker technologies. Additionally, the AutonoME ECU allows Veterans to access the internet to connect with family and friends via e-mail, social media, and Skype, as well as utilize YouTube to view videos. The AutonoME ECU also provides access to an eBook reader, music player, computer games suite, and productivity tools suite that includes a word processor, calendar, clock, and calculator. Each AutonoME ECU must be installed in the hospital room via an articulating arm, configured for optimal performance, and tested to ensure all components and features are working properly. Comprehensive training is provided to local clinician and technician staff to ensure that they are fully aware of all the features available to Veterans via the AutonoME ECU and can provide local assistance and/or support in the event it is needed.

Installation of the AutonoME ECU requires the mounting of various hardware components to the hospital bed in order to support these alternative input methods (i.e. microphone for voice recognition, flexible arm with straw and switch box for sip n' puff, bed box to control bed settings). In the event that the regular hospital bed is temporarily replaced with a rental bed an alternative solution is needed in order for the Veteran to access the AutonoME ECU since VA is not authorized to make modifications to these beds per the rental agreement. The proposed solution includes a portable hospital cart which would have the flexible arm with straw and microphone mounted to it, as well as the sip n' puff switch and bed box connecting it to the master unit. While this would not include bed control, as it is intended to be a universal option as opposed to a specific rental bed make and model, it does allow the Veteran to access and control the AutonoME ECU via voice and/or sip n' puff. The same flexible arm with straw and microphone mount, sip n' puff switch and bed box are used as in the standard installation and have already been procured under this contract. This cart is specifically modified to be configurable with the AutonoME components. The number of rental beds fluctuates at any given time due to patient demand. As such, the number of rental beds is impossible to determine. Therefore, portable hospital carts may be required at additional locations throughout the life of the contract to accommodate the utilization of rental beds at each hospital's SCI units.

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is Section 41 U.S.C. 3304(a)(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: The proposed source for this action is Accessibility Services, Inc., 6360 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, Florida 34446. The need for additional ECUs, head trackers, eye gaze with transferrable mounting systems, portable hospital carts and associated services are critical in meeting VA's requirements. It is of the utmost importance that Veterans receive the latest ECU technology as delivered under the current contract and proposed modification. The aforementioned AutonoME brand name items are the only items available that can meet all of VA's functional requirements. Specifically the aforementioned AutonoME brand name items are the only items that provide control via multiple input methods such as voice, touch, sip n'puff or dual switch, eye gaze and head tracker; all of which are part of VA's requirement for ECUs. These alternative methods are proprietary technology that interacts with the AutonoME ECU system in such a manner that allows spinal cord injury patients to utilize the ECU, thus giving them the ability to control their surroundings. With these multiple input methods, the AutonoME ECU's, head trackers, eye gaze with transferrable mounting systems, and portable hospital carts can be configured to accommodate Veterans with any type of disability. Additionally, these input methods are interchangeable by the patient with no staff assistance necessary. These functional requirements are critical in providing Veterans with state of the art care as required by VA. The AutonoME ECU's, head trackers, eye gaze with transferrable mounting systems, and portable hospital carts are manufactured, sold and serviced solely by ASI. The system and/or components are not available through any other distributor or dealer. As outlined in the market research section of this document, ASI is the only vendor capable of meeting the Government's requirements.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.201, the proposed action will be synopsized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and this justification will be made publicly available within 14 days after contract award in accordance with FAR 6.305(a).

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 performed in June 2014 by the Government's technical experts to determine the availability of other sources that would be capable of satisfying the aforementioned requirements. On June 17, 2014, the Contract Specialist issued a Request for Information (RFI) (VA118-14-I-0418) on the FBO website. The RFI requested all interested vendors to submit a capability statement in response to the posted draft Performance Work Statement. The RFI closed on June 24, 2014 with only one response received. One Woman-Owned Small Business, ASI, indicated it was interested in this procurement by submitting a capability statement. VA technical personnel reviewed ASI's response and determined that it was capable of meeting the Government's requirements. In addition, ASI is currently providing the

ECU's under this contract. In light of the above, ASI is the only vendor capable of meeting the Government's requirements.

9. Other Facts: None.