

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Justification and Approval**

**For**

**Other Than Full and Open Competition**

**1. Contracting Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
SAO East  
323 North Shore Drive, Suite 500  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**Requesting Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center  
1601 SW Archer Road  
Gainesville, FL 32608

- 2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This requirement is for the purchase of a Preclinical Cryogen Free MRI System 7.0T.

**Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** This requirement is for the purchase of a preclinical Cryogen free 7.0T MRI system.

A large number of VA and NIH funded investigators at the North Florida South Georgia VAMC at Gainesville Malcom Randall VA Medical Center are performing basic, translational and preclinical studies. This 7T Cryogen Free Preclinical MRI will be used by numerous research labs in the Gainesville VA Medical Center. At present, there is no functional similar 7T Cryogen Free Preclinical MRI in this VAMC. Availability of a state of the art Cryogen Free MRI, indeed, will facilitate investigators research work, and increase research portfolio of this VA Medical Center.

The estimated value of this requirement is \$601,038.40, and is based on commercial price lists from MR Solutions.

**3. 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;

4. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** The Preclinical Cryogen free 7.0T MRI system is a bench top MRI systems specifically designed for mice and rat molecular imaging studies, in-vivo and/or ex-vivo applications. It is highly specialized for preclinical research involving rats and mice. The system is based on the revolutionary and advanced world's first cryogen-free superconducting magnet technology. Due to this technology, MR SOLUTIONS systems operate in close proximity to other imaging modalities, including SPECT, PET, CT and optical allowing easy multimodality imaging. This magnet used for this MRI is based on superconducting technology and provides exclusively Cryogen free magnet and doesn't require the use of LIQUID helium. Since it does not require helium there is no extra cost or special disposal of expensive and dangerous helium. This system is capable of imaging from 0.1T to 7T and can switch between one field strength to another in less than one hour. The preclinical MRI system comes with self-shielding, therefore the operation does not require any RF shielding to the room. The system can fit in an ordinary room with 8' standard ceiling height. MR SOLUTIONS have a very high reputation for providing efficient, dependable products and are known as the Gold Standard in their field.

At present, there are several NIH and VA funded projects will be benefited using this system. This system will provide a new dimension and cutting edge into these researches. Several funded projects [REDACTED] use preclinical rodent model of traumatic brain injury (TBI), and spinal cord injury (SCI) and these projects will be benefitted by this instrument. Since TBI, SCI, and PTSD are priority areas of VA research mission, investigating various aspects of these issues using this MRI system could be very useful. Moreover, testing the effects of pharmacological compounds on obesity and musculoskeletal health [REDACTED] kidney disorders including hypertension [REDACTED] vascular disorders [REDACTED] and pulmonary hypertension [REDACTED] will provide translational potential of their researches quickly to the clinic to benefit veterans' health system.

5. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** There is no other MRI system on the market that is cryogen free, bench top accessible, magnetic superconducting technology, has a magnet stability of <0.05ppm/hour, self-shielding, and provides animal beds for subjects. A through search on Global MRI manufactures websites, searched for their preclinical product lines, all yielding negative results. The customer also completed a manufacturer list search and contacted MRI imaging expert [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] which concluded that MR Solution is the only company that can provide a Preclinical Cryogen Free MRI 7.0 T System.

The contracting officer also posted an intent to sole source for this announcement [REDACTED] [REDACTED] This will therefore be solicited on a sole source basis, as justified in accordance with this J&A.

6. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The anticipated price to the Government is \$601,038.40. As stated above, this price is based on commercial price lists from MR Solutions. The contracting officer will request similar commercial invoices from this vendor in order to determine this price as being fair and reasonable prior to contract award.
7. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** We have explored all the sources to fulfill our scientific requirements. The requested preclinical MRI system from MR Solutions has the best scientific and market review.

Market research was conducted on Global MRI manufactures website search, searched for their preclinical product lines, database queries, mmanufacturer list search, as well as contacting MRI imaging experts at the [REDACTED] All queries resulted in only one firm being capable of providing this product, MR Solutions.

8. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** The customer found two companies that produce 7.0 T precilical MRI (MR Solution and Btucker). However, only one of these companies produces cryogen free superconducting 7.0 T MRI which is MR Solution. The system from MR Solutions is compact in size, and does not require liquid helium to cool the system. MR Solution product is the only system that operation of the system does not require any modification to the building for special provisions for helium boil off in the event of a magnet quench. The system can fit in an ordinary room with 8' standard ceiling height. Moreover, it can able to switch from one field strength to the other (e.g. from 7.0T to 3.0T) in less than one hour. The magnet is extremely stable. The system can be used by different levels of persons, from physicists, Biologists, technician and students.

Using the salient features provided by the customer, the contracting officer did post an intent to sole source for this requirement, to which no responses were received. This will therefore be solicited on a sole source basis, as justified in accordance with this J&A.

9. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** The contracting officer did post an intent to sole source for this requirement, to which no responses were received. This will therefore be solicited on a sole source basis, as justified in accordance with this J&A.

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:**  
No responses were received in response to the sources sought posted for this requirement.

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

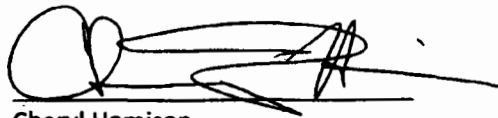
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

05/30/2014  
Date

**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.



Cheryl Homison  
Contracting Officer, R&D Team Lead  
SAO East

8/4/14

Date

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

Digitally signed by [REDACTED]  
DN: dc=gov, dc=va, o=internal, ou=people,  
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1. [REDACTED]

Date: 2014.08.06 11:10:43 -04'00'

Date