

Attachment 2: Request for Sole Source Memo Format

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 Physio-Suite 2 Ethovision XT 10.0 Monitoring System.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The Physio-Suite Physiological Monitoring System, which is for the procurement of the upgraded software for the Ethovision XT 10.0. The VA currently owns the Ethovision XT 8.0 software from Noldus at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville, FL, and this requirement is simply the procurement of the upgraded software for Ethovision XT 10.0. This software is different than the other Physio Suite monitoring system from [REDACTED], as it is for the upgrading of an entirely different system, which is for the Ethovision XT system.

This Software Ethovision XT 10.0 will be used by numerous research labs in the Gainesville VA Medical Center. At present, there is no functional similar behavioral analysis software as Ethovision XT 10.0. Availability of a state of the art behavioral analysis system, indeed, will facilitate investigators research work, and increase research portfolio of this VA Medical Center.

The estimated value of this requirement is \$9,981.00, and is based on commercial price lists from Noldus Information Technology.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**

- (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):** The Ethovision XT 10.0 made by Noldus is a state of the art video tracking system for automatically recording animal activity and movement. It is highly specialized for preclinical research involving rats and mice. This system has the capability to track, analyze movement, activity, and behavior of animals in an arena. No other piece of equipment can be used because of the importance of it being compatible with our current system. This system is used to test anxiety, learning, and memory in a single subject, and is capable of the most powerful and in-depth analysis currently available on the market. Ethovision XT 10.0 offers in-depth analysis for such data as: time spent immobile, velocity, distance, time spend in a zone, and many more parameters. Due to the sensitive detection methods built into Ethovision XT 10.0, its accuracy out beats alternative solutions offered. Ethovision XT 10.0 has the capability of doing several object detection methods, activity detection, batch acquisition, setting dependent variables, automated trail control, manual event recorder, automative and batch analysis, integrated visualization, trial and group statistics, and heatmaps. The software system is easy to use, has built in templates, works with a range of cameras, reliable and robust tracking and saves time and reduces human errors by automating experiments. The modules included in Ethovision XT 10.0 is Rat behavior recognition module, multiple arenas module, multiple body point module, trial and hardware control module, physiology integration module, and quality assurance module. To enable cutting edge research within this VA system, this Ethovision XT 10.0 will bring a tremendous benefit to all the scientists working in preclinical models.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** There is no other Ethovision XT 10.0 software system available on the open market that is compatible with the version that is already present at the VA. This is an upgrade to a higher version from the already acquired Noldus Ethovision XT 8.0.

The contracting officer did post an intent to sole source for this announcement, to which no responses were received. This will therefore be solicited on a sole source basis, as justified in accordance with this J&A.

7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The anticipated price to the Government is \$9,981.00. As stated above, this price is based on commercial price lists from Noldus Information Technology. 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.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** This item is an upgrade to the VA's already existing system. 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. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** 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. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** No responses were received in response to the sources sought posted for this requirement.

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:** All future requirements will be posted on www.fedbizopps.gov to ensure that competition is promoted.

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.

[Redacted Signature]

06/02/2014 _____
Date

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

Date

13. **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

8/4/2014 _____
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]
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