

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Justification and Approval**

**For**

**Other Than Full and Open Competition**

**1. Contracting Activity:**

**Contracting Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Program Contracting Activity Central  
6150 Oak Tree Boulevard, Suite 300  
Independence, OH 44131

**Ordering Service:**

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA)

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

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Facilities have been accredited for over 30 years with The Joint Commission. As part of maintaining accreditation, each hospital facility must submit data for ORYX Core Performance Measures. Key to accreditation is participation in The Joint Commission's (TJC) ORYX® initiative that integrates outcomes and other performance measurement data into the accreditation process. ORYX measurement requirements support Joint Commission accredited organizations in their quality improvement efforts. They supplement and help guide the standards-based survey process by providing a more targeted basis for continuously monitoring actual performance, guiding and stimulating continuous improvement in health care organizations. All VA accredited hospitals are required to submit performance measurement data on a specified minimum number of measure sets or non-core measures, as appropriate, to The Joint Commission through a TJC authorized performance measurement system.

VHA has been authorized by TJC as an ORYX performance measure "vendor", which allows VHA to collect, store and transmit VA data using internal staff and processes developed by the Office of Information Technology. However, VHA cannot perform all functions of this ORYX initiative. As part of the accreditation process, once vendors transmit their data to TJC, TJC reviews the data, compares the data against other "like" hospitals, and posts the data for facilities and others to review. TJC also uses information from the data to focus accreditation review activities to the special issues of the facility. TJC invoices VHA for each quarterly transmission of data.

This action will be awarded as a new contract at a fixed price.

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

The Department of Veterans Affairs currently contracts with The Joint Commission for accreditation services. Provided that VHA maintains The Joint Commission's accreditation services, an ORYX performance measurement system is required. This acquisition will renew the agreement for the rights to continue to submit required ORYX Performance Measures to The Joint Commission to support VHA's accreditation requirements.

The Joint Commission will accept transmission of VHA raw data, score the measures and post measures on each facility's extranet site. They will also compare each facility against like facilities (similar government hospitals) and all hospitals in the U.S. The Joint Commission provides ongoing support to ensure that these ORYX measure specifications are current and support quality healthcare.

Performance Period: 01/01/2014 through 12/31/2014 with an additional 4 option years.

Independent Government Cost Estimate: Base Year: \$144,520

Option Year 1: \$161,800

Option Year 2: \$162,300

Option Year 3: \$177,781

Option Year 4: \$177,781

Grand Total: \$825,982

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

41 USC §253(c)(1), as implemented by FAR 6.302.2

(X) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy

Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;

**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 performance measure data process described above is solely that of The Joint Commission. The VA currently contracts with The Joint Commission for accreditation services. These contracted services are required in order for VHA to continue submitting raw data. There are no other sources that are able to score and report on The Joint Commission's website other than The Joint Commission. Without this sole source contract, VHA facilities will lose their Joint Commission accreditation.

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

The services in this contract are highly specialized and unique to The Joint Commission. There are no other sources that can provide the services needed.

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

The IGCE for this action is outlined in section 3. The government will receive a fair and reasonable price given that The Joint Commission's charges for these services is the same regardless of the source providing the data. The price for this contract will be the market rate for the services provided.

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

A Notice of Intent to Sole Source was posted on FedBizOpps from 10/7/2013 to 10/21/2013. The Notice of Intent explained that we intend to solicit and negotiate with The Joint Commission for the ORYX Performance Measurement System and referenced NAICS code 813920. The Notice of Intent did not request competitive proposals, but asked that any responsible source who could meet the requirement submit a capability statement, proposal, or quote. No responses were received. A VetBiz search was completed using the term "ORYX" and NAICS code 813920, which returned zero (0) results.

No additional market research was conducted because the requirement for ORYX Performance Measurement Data transmission is unique to The Joint Commission accrediting body.

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

None.

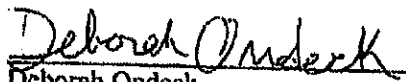
**10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

None.

**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:**

None. The Joint Commission is the only provider of the services covered by this action.

**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.

  
Deborah Onderk  
Project Officer  
OIA

11/7/2013  
Date

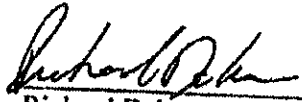
**13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304**

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

jane.oney@va.gov Digitally signed by jane.oney@va.gov  
DN: cn=jane.oney@va.gov  
Date: 2013.11.14 10:39:14 -05'00'  
Jane Oney  
Contracting Officer  
PCAC

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Date

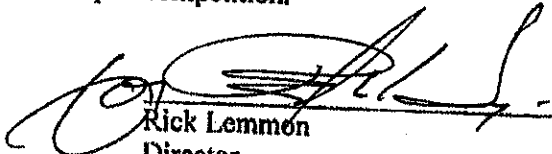
- b. **NCM/PCM (Required \$3K and above):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.



Richard Dahmen  
Program Contract Manager  
PCAC

11/22/13  
Date

- c. **SAO (If over 650K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

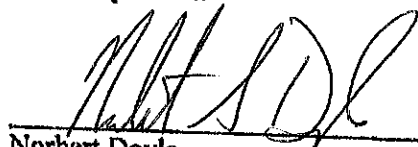


Rick Lemmon  
Director  
Service Area Office, Central

Date

7 Aug 14

- 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 (\$650K to 12.5 million) for other than full and open competition.



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

Date

8/7/14