

**JUSTIFICATION FOR
SOLE SOURCE ACQUISITION UNDER THE TEST PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN
COMMERCIAL ITEMS**

1. Contracting Activity.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Acquisition Operations, Strategic Acquisition Center
10300 Spotsylvania Avenue, Suite 400
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

2. Description of Action.

This justification for sole source acquisition under the test program for certain commercial items sets forth the facts and requests approval for the issuance of a sole source requirement, with Practical Application of Intimate Relationship Skills (PAIRS) Foundation to procure the following:

Item #	Description/Part Number	Qty
1	Train the Trainer: W2SM PAIRS Training manual and PAIRS licensing for trainers to train VA employees.	48
2	VA Facilitators: W2SM PAIRS Training manual and PAIRS licensing for VA Employees to facilitate W2SM relationship workshops.	2,128
4	PAIRS licensing for VISN's to continue utilizing PAIRS curricula.	325
5	W2SM PAIRS workshop participant books	39,400
6	W2SM PAIRS participant wallet size quick reference card sets.	39,400

The period of performance will be for one 12-month period and four 12-month option periods.

3. Description of Supplies/Services including Estimated Values.

This special document authorizes the award of a sole-source, firm-fixed price contract to the PAIRS Foundation, Ltd., 200 S. Park Road, Suite 455, Hollywood, Florida 33021 to provide existing VA PAIRS licensed trainers with the necessary materials to license additional facilitators who will in turn facilitate W2SM workshops/seminars for couples who struggle with post deployment relationship issues. This effort will also provide a means for VISN's to maintain licenses to utilize PAIRS curricula as required by the PAIRS Foundation. Each delivery order will specify a delivery date for items ordered under this contract. The cost of this contract is estimated not to exceed \$2,770,895.00.

Training manual and licenses for 1 year to facilitate relationship workshops	\$579,800	\$192,510	\$394,335	\$745,200	\$859,050
Training manual and licenses to "Train the trainer"	Above are total amounts for manuals, certifications, participant literature and licensing each year.				
Participant Literature					
Annual licenses for VISN to continue utilizing curricula	Specific quantities of each requirement being procured each year is contained the IGCE.				

4. Statutory authority permitting sole source acquisition under the test program for commercial items.

The statutory authority permitting sole source acquisitions under the test program for commercial items is 41 U.S.C. 1901 as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 13.501(a)(1)(ii).

5. A demonstration that the proposed contractor's unique qualifications or the nature of the acquisition requires use of the authority cited.

PAIRS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, exclusively owns the intellectual property and proprietary training systems which is the basis for the PAIRS W2SM program and is exclusively responsible for worldwide production, resale and distribution of materials including the aforementioned intellectual property as well as licensing for individuals to utilize the intellectual property to conduct courses for the public.

The PAIRS licenses and materials supports a joint initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Chaplain Center and the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation to provide sustainment and expand the use of the W2SM program on a national level through 21 VISN's over the next five years. The PAIRS Warrior to Soul Mate (W2SM) program is a grass-roots initiative on the part of VA chaplain services, often in cooperation with additional medical center services, to provide relationship enhancement skills based on the PAIRS model to Veterans and their significant others. The W2SM PAIRS program is unique in that it is NOT "faith-based" and therefore not geared toward any one faith group which makes it a distinctive choice for the VA to be diverse in training materials so as not to exclude any one Christian or non-Christian group of veterans. Additionally, PAIRS is unique in its focus on bonding and emotional literacy as the foundation for integration of communication and conflict resolution skills that have been widely validated as essential for sustaining healthy relationships. Lastly, PAIRS provides certification of VA staff to serve as program facilitators, trainers of program facilitators, and has a clear licensing process for maintaining program fidelity.

6. Description of Efforts Made to Solicit Offers from as Many potential sources as practical.

PAIRS curriculum, including programs for the public, proprietary training systems for professionals, and a broad range of adaptations and abbreviations, are owned exclusively and are only available through the nonprofit PAIRS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charity. PAIRS Foundation also oversees all professional training, licensing, and certification programs worldwide. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. Additionally, the proposed action will be synopsized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page in accordance with FAR 5.201. Section 8 addresses the market research to support efforts made to solicit from others.

7. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Cost.

The Contracting Officer has determined the anticipated cost to the Government of the supplies covered by this J&A will be fair and reasonable.

The fair and reasonableness of the cost/price will be based on an analysis of the contractor's cost/price proposal, including backup information supporting the cost/price with commercial price listing available at <http://www.pairsusa.com/c-27-warrior-to-soul-mate.aspx>. It is anticipated this analysis will be conducted using experienced technical representative, contract specialists, and field pricing support.

8. Description of the Market Research conducted and results.

Market research was conducted in accordance with FAR Part 10 in search of sources of PAIRS materials, and licensing under this requirement. The list of potential sources examined included:

- a. Searched Federal Prison Industries (FPI), or Unicor;
- b. Searched Ability One;
- c. Searched GSA/The Federal Supply Schedule (FSS); to include GSA/VA Advantage and Schedule 65 II A, Medical Equipment and Supplies;
- d. Searched SAM;
- e. Searched the Internet;
- f. The Medical Product Data Bank (MedPDB; and,
- g. The VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor Listing.

Based on the findings under the market research it was verified that the PAIRS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, exclusively owns the intellectual property and proprietary training systems which is the basis for the PAIRS W2SM program and is exclusively responsible for worldwide production, resale and distribution of materials including the aforementioned intellectual property as well as licensing for individuals and activities to utilize the intellectual property to conduct courses for the public.

9. Any other facts supporting the use of other than full and open competition.

The PAIRS Foundation has successfully delivered relationship education to active-duty military and Veterans since its establishment in 1983. In 2009, the Charlie Norwood VA Chaplain Service in Augusta, Georgia in conjunction with the National Chaplain Center, Indianapolis, Indiana determined PAIRS to be a uniquely effective program for addressing the relationship enhancement needs of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Veterans impacted by combat deployment.

That determination was based on direct experience with OEF/OIF Veterans and significant others who participated in multiple PAIRS retreats sponsored by Charlie Norwood VA Chaplain Service which were replicated in PAIRS retreats sponsored by the San Diego VA Health Care System's Chaplain Service. Direct experience between 2009 and the present delivering PAIRS certification training to several hundred VA Chaplains and Behavioral Health professionals, as well as feedback provided by Veterans and spouses/significant others in programs held at more than two dozen VA sites nationwide provided further validation to the program's efficacy and impact. Significant feedback provided by VA staff participating in PAIRS certification training programs who have also received training in other relationship training programs such as PREP and/or Strong Bonds further reinforced the PAIRS program's high level of efficacy promoting healthy relationships for Veterans, including many impacted by issues related to post traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries, both of which have been increasingly prevalent among Veterans whose service included OEF/OIF combat deployments.

10. A listing of the sources, if any, that expressed, in writing, an interest in the acquisition.

PAIRS Foundation, Ltd., 200 S. Park Road, Suite 455, Hollywood, Florida 33021