

## 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 firm-fixed price contract for transportation and offsite storage services of disaster recovery materials in the form of media tapes, for the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) from Safesite, Inc. (Safesite), 9505 Johnny Morris Road, Austin, Texas 78724. The period of performance for this action is four years, consisting of a 12-month base period with three, 12-month option periods to be exercised at the Government's discretion.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: The proposed action is in direct support of Federal continuity of operations (COOP) requirements that requires every Federal agency to plan for continuous performance of essential functions and operations in the event of an emergency. This is stated in the Federal Preparedness Circular 65, which is reinforced by the National Security Presidential Directive 51 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 20. In order to meet Government mandated policies and procedures for disaster recovery and COOP, AITC must procure transportation and offsite storage facility services. These services will enable AITC to ensure that Primary Mission-Essential Functions will continue to be performed in the event of a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents, and technological or attack-related emergencies. The Contractor shall provide secure transportation of AITC's disaster recovery media tapes from AITC to the storage facility on a daily basis. The storage facility shall provide safe and secure storage of the disaster recovery media tapes. In the event that a catastrophe renders the AITC's materials processing inoperative or the AITC facility inaccessible, the stored media tapes will be used to continue Primary Mission-Essential Functions at an alternate disaster recovery site. The total estimated amount for this requirement is \$ [REDACTED], inclusive of the option periods.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 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 Safesite, 9505 Johnny Morris Road, Austin, Texas 78724. Based on market research, which can be found in paragraph eight of this document, it was determined that Safesite is the only responsible source capable of satisfying VA's requirements. Safesite is capable of meeting the AITC's requirements, particularly the requirement that the storage facility be located a minimum of 10 miles away from AITC while being capable of providing secure transportation of the media tapes from AITC to the storage facility on a daily basis, including holidays and weekends. In the event of a disaster or catastrophe at AITC (e.g., localized acts of nature, accidents,

## Transportation and Offsite Storage of Disaster Recovery Materials

and technological or attack-related emergencies), the requirement that the media tapes be stored at a minimum of 10 miles away will mitigate the risk of the materials being affected by the same event.

In the event of a catastrophe at AITC, the farther away the offsite storage facility is located the lower the probability that the storage facility is affected by the same event.

Additionally, only Safesite can meet the Government's emergency callback requirements. Periodically, it is necessary for systems administrators and other key personnel to recall media tapes from the off-site storage facility to restore a file or system. When a need arises, a Service Desk ticket is created and depending on the urgency and the degree of impact on Primary Mission-Essential Functions a service level of two hour, four hour, or next day is assigned. In the most urgent cases delivery is required to be made within two hours. For slightly less urgent cases delivery is required to be made within four hours. For low priority cases delivery is acceptable to be made on the next scheduled tape rotation. Safesite is the only source that can meet all of these 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 potential sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition which would satisfy the Government's requirements. Additionally, the proposed action will be synopsized on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) page in accordance with FAR Part 5.201.

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 conducted in July 2014 by the Government's technical experts which included reviews of existing requirements against commercially available aforementioned transportation/storage requirements. Market research was conducted via internet searches, including Government websites such as General Services Administration eBuy and FBO.gov. One other company was discovered to possibly provide the aforementioned services. Iron Mountain Government Services, 6600 Metropolis Drive, Austin Texas, was the only other Contractor identified in the local area performing these types of services. The location of the Iron Mountain storage facility was unacceptable, as it is located less than four miles away from AITC which is not compliant with the geographic area requirement of maintaining at least a 10 mile physical separation. Based on the above, it has been determined that only Safesite can meet all of VA's needs. Additional market research was conducted in July 2014. A Request for Information was posted to the FBO website to identify any additional sources capable of providing the aforementioned services. Zero responses were received. Therefore, no

## Transportation and Offsite Storage of Disaster Recovery Materials

competition is anticipated for this acquisition which would satisfy the Government's requirements under this procurement.

9. Other Facts: N/A