

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval  
For  
Other Than Full and Open Competition  
573-14-3-909-0187

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office 08 (NCO 08), James A. Haley VA Medical Center (673) Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition – purchase request number: 573-14-3-909-0187.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This is a request for Other Than Full and Open Competition for the procurement of research and development (R&D) services associated with the Rehabilitation Neuroscience Initiative of the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center (BRRC). The VA Merit Grant for this procurement is titled, "Development of White Matter Stroke Model in Rats". Services shall be provided by the University of Florida (UF) and shall be performed at Veterans Affairs Bose Thompson Laboratory at UF. These services are being requested by the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center, located in Gainesville Florida, to discover options that may guide and accelerate translational applications of research findings directly to the BRRC clinical research mission to develop and test treatments that harness neuroplasticity to substantially improve or restore impairments of motor, cognition, and emotion that have been caused by neurologic disease or injury. The Key personnel on this effort provided by the UF are the principle investigators (Dr. Brad R. Rothermel, PhD, and Dr. R. M. M. The resulting action will be a firm fixed price contract with a one year base period and one option year to be exercised should the Government deem necessary.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The research and development services required supports the overall mission of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) by creating a clinically relevant white matter rat and mouse stroke model to provide human stroke related disabilities in an animal model to test clinical questions that cannot be tested in human patients. Therefore, the preclinical discoveries in these models may guide and accelerate translational applications of research findings directly to BRRC's clinical research mission. The overall objective of this contract is to acquire R&D services to create a clinically relevant white matter rat and mouse stroke model to provide a quantitative and comprehensive evaluation of the development of motor, cognitive, and vestibulomotor disabilities.

The responsibilities of the PI's will be; however, not limited to the following:

Major duties and responsibilities to be performed at the UF:

1. ~~Perform research and development project related to the development of a white matter stroke model in rats and mice.~~
2. ~~Develop and test treatments that harness neuroplasticity to substantially improve or restore impairments of motor, cognition, and emotion that have been caused by neurologic disease or injury.~~
3. ~~Develop and test treatments that harness neuroplasticity to substantially improve or restore impairments of motor, cognition, and emotion that have been caused by neurologic disease or injury.~~
4. ~~Develop and test treatments that harness neuroplasticity to substantially improve or restore impairments of motor, cognition, and emotion that have been caused by neurologic disease or injury.~~
5. ~~Develop and test treatments that harness neuroplasticity to substantially improve or restore impairments of motor, cognition, and emotion that have been caused by neurologic disease or injury.~~
6. ~~Develop and test treatments that harness neuroplasticity to substantially improve or restore impairments of motor, cognition, and emotion that have been caused by neurologic disease or injury.~~

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Major duties and responsibilities to be performed at the VA (Bose Thompson lab):

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The period of performance for this contract will be from approximately September 27, 2014 through September 26, 2016. The total estimated cost of the contract is \$[REDACTED] including options.

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;
- ( X ) (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):

This service is essential to further the development of the Rehabilitation Neuroscience Initiative of the BRRRC. UF is the sole contractor within the North Central Florida region that is fully qualified to provide the research service and guarantee continuous support of vital Government R&D programs. The PI's provided by UF for this study are uniquely qualified and have the expertise to complete the R&D. At this time, the research department does not know of any other institution capable to provide individuals with the requisite expertise to provide the required services. The Malcom Randall VA Medical Center is connected both physically and functionally to the University. Proximity to the university is essential to ensure effective, complete, and timely research services. UF is uniquely positioned for this contract, it has been determined that UF is the only institution with the appropriate resources and expertise to satisfy the Government's requirement. The Malcom Randall VAMC has an affiliation with the University of Florida College of Medicine.

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

Every research project is reviewed to determine its feasibility for competition. The subject research project was carefully reviewed prior to the decision to establish a service contract with UF. There are other national and regional universities that offer research services. However, UF is affiliated with the Malcolm Randall VAMC and they are the only non-profit educational institution with the appropriate resources and personnel who have experience conducting the required research.

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

Analysis of the pricing submitted by UF was conducted by the Contract Specialist. According to the Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) the approximate cost is \$[REDACTED] annually for a base and option year I. The cost includes two (2) .6 FTE, Animals and use of UF core facilities, and supplies. Reference below for the table which depicts the IGCE for each portion.

**IGCE**

<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>BASE YEAR</b>	<b>OPTION YEAR I</b>
Personnel two (2) FTE	██████████	██████████
Animals and use of UF core facilities	██████████	██████████
Supplies	██████████	██████████
Total	██████████	██████████
Grand Total	██████████	

**ANNUAL SALARY COMPARISON**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary Range</b>	<b>Salary Range for .6 FTE</b>
Salary.com	Clinical Research Associate I	██████████ ██████████	██████████ ██████████

Salary.com was utilized as a means to determine price reasonableness for the annual salaries. The search was limited to Gainesville, FL. Taking into account that the Malcom Randall VAMC, Research & Development (R&D) service requirement is only for .6 FTE, the annual salary for a Clinical Research Associate I ranged from ██████████,██████. Based on the information obtained from Salary.com, the IGCE of \$██████████ annually is considered fair and reasonable.

**ANIMALS/USE OF FACILITY & SUPPLIES**

<b>Item</b>	<b>FY-14 &amp; 15 IGCE Amount</b>	<b>FY-13 Previous Contract VA248-12-C-0331</b>
Animals and use of UF core facilities	██████████	██████████
Supplies	██████████	██████████

Based on the IGCE received, the amounts for the Supplies, Animals and use of UF core facilities remain the same. In FY-13, the cost was determined to be fair and reasonable representing the best value to the Government and remains fair and reasonable representing the best value to the Government.

8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Market research was conducted utilizing General Service Administration (GSA) E-Library, the Vendor Information Pages (VETBIZ), and the National Acquisition Center Catalog Search Tool (CCST) to determine if the requirement could be provided by either a

Mandatory or Optional Federal Supply Schedule. A search was also conducted on Google to determine if there were any other Universities conducting the same or similar type of research. Based on the market research results obtained from GSA E-Library, VETBIZ, and the CCST, R&D services for Human Neurorehabilitation cannot be obtained via a Mandatory or Optional Federal Supply Schedule contract.

The search on Google revealed that there are several Universities conducting comparable research to include: Boston University, Marquet University, and Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, to name a few. However; these Universities are not in close proximity to the Malcom Randall VAMC making it difficult for them to provide the service. Additionally, none of these universities have an affiliation with the Malcom Randall VAMC.

The PI's for this study are uniquely qualified and have the expertise to complete the R&D. Currently, UF is the only known source which can provide the personnel with the uniquely qualifications and expertise to complete this R&D. At this time, the research department does not know any other source other than the UF.

9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** UF is currently providing the same research services that meet all regulatory requirements to the BRRC Center of Excellence (COE). Based on market research, UF is the only university in the North-Central Florida region that can fully meet the Government's requirements, and therefore the Government is currently unable to seek efficient competition. UF has provided research services for the BRRC COE since 1999 and has a good past performance.
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** There are no other known sources but the proposed.
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:** The BRRC COE will continue to fully review and evaluate the market availability of comparable services and may replace/revise the requirement in the future if needed.
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.

  
Margaret Kincaid  
Program Specialist  
Contracting Officer Representative  
NF/SG Veterans Health System

7-10-2014  
Date

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

- a. **Contract Specialist Certification:** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

shaundrica.c  
ose@va.gov  
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shaundrica.close@va.gov  
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Date: 2014.08.22 15:26:21 -04'00'  
Shaundrica M. Close

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Contract Specialist  
Medical Sharing Team  
James A. Haley Veterans Hospital

- b. **Product Line Supervisor:** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Digitally signed by: vhatamrodriguez  
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Date: 2014.09.09 11:51:12 -0500

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9-9-14

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Yamil O. Rodriguez  
Product Line Supervisor, Medical Sharing Team  
James A. Haley Veterans Hospital

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- c. **DOC/DDOC: (SAT to \$500,000)** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Bleckley (DJ)  
Director of Contracting, Acting  
VISN 8

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Ryan  
Director  
Service Area Office, East

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- e. **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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer  
VHA Head of Contracting Activity (HCA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- f. **VA Deputy Senior Procurement Executive Approval (over \$12.5 million but not exceeding \$50 million):** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and approve for other than full and open competition.