

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 10, Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center (VAACC), Network Contracting Office (NCO) 10, Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition. "Replace Existing Nurse Call," 2237 number 757-15-1-743-0009.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This justification is requesting that all contractors be required to directly negotiate with Critical Alert (manufacturer of Nurse Call System) without providing for full and open Competition. Replacing current building wide system will affect all patient care areas of the building, and the police. The project will require strategic removal of the old system so that its functionality can be retained while the new system is being installed and brought online. This project will include drywall, painting, finishes, electrical and IT work. This will be a new firm fixed price contract.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The Chalmers P. Wylie VAACC's project to Replace the existing Nurse Call System calls for the removal of the current Simplex based system and the installment of a new Critical Alert nurse call system. This project is estimated to cost approximately The current Nurse Call System was cited in Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) as a deficiency in need of replacement. The equipment will be purchased from Critical Alert and installed by a contractor yet to be determined. The contractor will install the devices and necessary wiring based upon Critical Alert's instructions, and the Chalmers P. Wylie VAACC's needs. The estimated equipment cost of this J&A 425 devices will be installed as part of the new nurse call system.
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**
 - (x) (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 above listed system will replace the current system's devices in all patient care areas of the VAACC, some restrooms and the police's monitoring station. Because of the age of the current Simplex system, and the newer technology inherent in the Critical Alert System, it is impossible to add the new system to the old system. It is important that the system is reliable and fully functional to ensure patient care standards are maintained. The Critical Alert's unique "home run" system allows each specific device to communicate directly and independently with the central processor. Therefore, in the event of a single device failure, there is no communication loop that can be severed, and all other devices will remain fully operational. Based upon market research, this technology is not available from any other manufacturer of nurse call systems.

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

The VAACC Engineering, Biomedical, and Nursing Services departments with the assistance of Architectural and Engineering (A/E) contractor, Contech Design Inc. and VA Network Contracting Office (NCO) 10, reviewed available nurse call systems that met the needs of the facility and generated an initial list of eight (8) systems from the following manufacturers: Aionex, Ascom, Austco, Critical Alert, Hill-Rom, Rauland (2), and Westcall. The VA team and the A/E contractor then rated each system on the following attributes: reliability, integration with the Vocera internal wireless communication system (currently in use at the VAACC), portability, repair/maintenance by VA personnel, programmability, control of alarm tones, accuracy of reporting alarms, tracking of nursing personnel, scalable alarm functions, system automated self-checks, uploading floor plans to master stations, outpatient care center experience, and estimated cost. The group then reviewed the top four (4) selections based upon hands on demonstrations of the systems. Based upon survey data, the VAACC group selected Critical Alert as the system that best met the facility needs.

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

The anticipated construction cost has been compared with various other nurse call systems and been deemed to be fair and reasonable by the Contracting Officer. The likely procurement vehicles for the installation of the nurse call system will be utilization of the Construction IDIQ contract, in which rates and coefficients have already been determined to be fair and reasonable. Based upon the initial selection process starting with eight (8) vendors and cost being an initial factor in the process, and the competition built into selecting an installation contractor, the Contracting Officer believes that the total price for removal of the old system, purchasing and installation of the new system will be fair and reasonable. The Critical Alert Nurse Call System falls within the price range of the four (4) systems that were demonstrated.

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

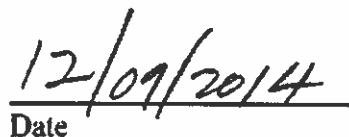
As stated above, pursuant to FAR Part 10, the VAACC Engineering, Biomedical, and Nursing Services departments, with the assistance of Contech Design Inc. researched available nurse call systems market and generated an initial list of eight (8) possible systems. The VA team and Contech Design Inc. then rated each system on the following attributes: reliability, integration with Vocera, portability, repair/maintenance by VA personnel, programmability, control of alarm tones,

accuracy of reporting alarms, tracking of nursing personnel, scalable alarm functions, system automated self-checks, uploading floor plans to master stations, outpatient care center experience, and estimated cost. The group then reviewed the top four (4) selections based upon a hands on demonstration of the system. From there, the VA selected Critical Alert as the system that best met the facility needs.

9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** The requirements for a nurse call system may be fulfilled by another system but may not adequately support the needs of the facility. The Critical Care System does not rely on a "loop" concept where each device is reliant upon the others. This improves the reliability of the system as a whole, because it cannot be knocked offline or have its functionality limited by one device failure. The facility also requires a reliable system that can be scaled (without multiple service calls) up to future needs and requirements and adapt to new configurations. Based upon thorough research, the team believes that only the Critical Alert system meets both needs, at a fair and reasonable price.
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** Aionex, Ascom, Austco, Critical Alert, Hill-Rom, Rauland, and Westcall.
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:** Although the expectation is that the new nurse call system to have a long life cycle, in an attempt to foster competition for the next nurse call system, the VAACC will once again bring together a multi-disciplinary team, and attempt to identify at least three (3) nurse call systems that can fulfill its current and future needs and/or if technology permits, consider an open source product that will accept devices from multiple manufacturers based upon an agreed upon industry standard.
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.



Roger Dunifon
Supervisory General Engineer
Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center



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.

ROBERT H. IVEY
225363

Digitally signed by ROBERT H. IVEY 221363
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January 7, 2015

Bob Ivey
Contracting Officer
Network Contracting Office (NCO) 10

Date

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

JOSEPH L.
BOGGS 315360

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Joseph Boggs
Construction A/E Team Manager
Network Contracting Office (NCO) 10

Date