

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
1701 Directors Blvd
Austin, TX 78744

2. Description of Action: The proposed sole source action is for a three-month firm-fixed-price contract of services for all hardware, installation, configuration and repairs required to supply Integrated Services Digital Network, Primary Rate Interfaces, Direct Inward Dialing two-way, combination, inbound/outbound and both-way, and Directory Listing service using Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 13, Simplified Acquisition Procedures. The type of funds being used are franchise funds. The current contract VA798-10-0806 was awarded October 1, 2010, and expires on March 31, 2015.

3. Description of Services: VA, Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), Service Delivery and Engineering (SDE) requires continued telecommunication connectivity for circuits that support the Private Branch Exchange (PBX) system at the Austin Information Technology Center (AIRC) and the Southpark building in Austin, Texas. The service is for 115 simultaneous inbound and/or outbound calls for the tenants at the Southpark building. The service shall provide 46 inbound and/or outbound calls for the Automated Call Distributor system used by the National Service Desk. The service also includes 3000 direct inward dialing/direct outward dialing telephone numbers to route inbound calls, and display the caller's identification for outbound calls at the AIRC. This three-month requirement allows for the current contractor to continue services until the follow-on contract is awarded which is anticipated June 1, 2015. The three-month contract will allow proper transition time from the current contractor to the awardee. The three-month requirement of services is estimated at \$26,721.00.

4. Authority Cited:

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) paragraph 13.106-1(b)(1)

For purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold, contracting officers may solicit from one source if the contracting officer determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available.

5. Reason for Authority Cited:

The proposed source for this action is a large business:

Southwestern Bell Telephone CO., dba AT&T Texas
208 S. Akard Street
Room 320

Telephone Connectivity to Support the PBX System

Dallas TX 75202

OI&T, SDE requires AT&T Texas as the Local Exchange Service (LEC) Carrier in Austin, TX. All competitive LECs will be required to use AT&T Texas network infrastructure to operate the telephone voice circuits. AT&T Texas installed fiber into the AITC and the Southpark building in Austin prior to 2004 in preparation for larger bandwidth circuits and telephone services. No other contractor has installed the infrastructure necessary to support the rapidly changing requirements of data center telecommunications services. Transitioning to a new contractor will take up to three months. This includes the time required for competing and awarding a new contract as well as the time that would be needed for that vendor to complete the required loop drop, turn up, and porting of numbers. Therefore, continued telecommunication connectivity for circuits supporting the PBX system is needed until the competitive follow-on contract is awarded.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: The source proposed above is the only source that can continue services without service disruption until the competitive requirement is awarded. Procurement data does not include any unnecessary requirements that may inhibit competition.
7. Actions to Increase Competition: The competitive follow-on award is currently underway. The Program Manager is currently working with Technology Acquisition Center to ensure their requirement properly aligns so transition of services are in place to ensure no service interruption. An award is anticipated in the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015.
8. Market Research: VA subject matter experts conducted market research by internet research and phone calls to determine if other providers have the ability to provide this service. Only the incumbent contractor, AT&T Texas, can continue to provide services without service interruption for AITC and Southpark building. Other sources would be required to loop drop, turn up, and port numbers. AT&T Texas is the only contractor that can satisfy the required start date of April 1, 2015.
9. Interested Sources: None