

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Justification and Approval (J&A)
For
Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office 23, 708 South Third Street, Suite 200E, Minneapolis, MN 55415, on behalf of the Des Moines VA Medical Center. This is a Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** Justification and approval for a new interim contract for \$177,341.79. The interim contract is for an Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT)) on-call service contract at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System (VA-CIHCS) main campus in Des Moines, IA. The contract will be a firm fixed priced IDIQ. There is no current contract in place to cover on-call coverage and has been paid previously on fee basis. It was recently identified that fee basis payment for on-call coverage is not allowed, leaving an immediate gap in on-call services.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** VA-CIHCS needs immediate services on contract with Iowa Head and Neck, PC for ENT in-patient consultation and on-call services at the main Des Moines, IA campus. The interim contract will be for a six (6) month base period, with an option to extend for an additional six (6) months. Iowa Head and Neck, PC has provided these services previously on fee-basis.
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** 41 USC §253(c)(1), as implemented by FAR 6.302-1.

(XX) (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**

There is not enough time to allow open competition of this requirement and maintain care to Veterans. There is no current contract in place to cover this requirement. The effective date for this short term must be February 1, 2015 due to these services being patient and mission critical. The VA cannot do without these services for the patients/Veterans, as well as supporting the local residency program. The incumbent service provider from fee basis, Iowa Head and Neck, PC, will continue the services under contract for the time being. This contractor has the resources (credentialed manpower, experience, physical location, technical/operational knowledge and computer system access) to perform these critical mission services for the short term contract. It is anticipated that a *minimum* of two hundred and twenty business days will be required to compete, procure and potentially transition the current workload to another contractor without disruption in services after a complete procurement package is developed by the Integrated Product Team (IPT).

It would not be practicable to complete an interim competitive contract for this shorter period due to the short timeframe needed to prevent a lapse in critical services. It would not be possible for other vendors to transition the current workload, credentialing and privileging without a significant disruption in services in the time required.

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

7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The Contracting Officer will determine the price fair and reasonable.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Current market research has determined that there are no additional vendors in the area that could provide the required services in the short term. The long term contract may have additional competition but the contractors would have to go through significant costs and credentialing to provide the service and it would not be feasible for the short term and immediate need for this requirement.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** None
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

Iowa Head and Neck, PC
3901 Ingersoll Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50302-3205
(515)274-9138 (main office)
Dr. Matthew Brown
Mrbrown22@icloud.com

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:**

An Integrated Product Team (IPT) was established and is working on the documentation required to release a long-term solicitation Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT)) service contract for VA-CIHCS.

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.

Bruce R.
Hancock 723200
Signature: Bruce Hancock
COR Liaison
VA-CIHCS

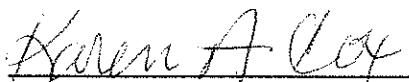
Digitally signed by Bruce R. Hancock 723200
DN: cn=gov, c=us, o=HHS, ou=VA, email=bruce.hancock@va.gov, ou=Bruce R. Hancock 723200
Date: 2015.01.13 15:00:25 -0500

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Date

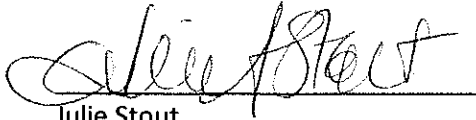
13. **Approvals in accordance with the VHAPM, Volume 6, Chapter VI: OFOC SOP.**

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Signature: Karen Cox
Contract Officer
NCO 23

13 Jan 2015
Date

- b. **Director of Contracting /Designee (Required \$150K and above):** I certify the justification meets requirements and I approve for other than full and open competition.



Julie Stout

Product Line Contracting Manager
NCO 23

13 Jan 2015

Date

