

## LIMITED-SOURCES JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Office of Acquisition Operations  
Technology Acquisition Center  
23 Christopher Way  
Eatontown, NJ 07724
  
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a sole source award of a firm-fixed price delivery order awarded under General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Information Technology (IT) 70 contact GS-35F-0265X to immixTechnology, Inc., 8444 Westpark Drive, Suite 200, McLean, VA 22102.
  
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to provide VA's Office of Information and Technology, Office of Information Security, Network Security Operations Center (NSOC) with brand name EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software Licenses and maintenance services to directly support NSOC in its ability to investigate, contain, and resolve threats to VA's IT network. EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software is used in conducting forensics on IT infrastructure and will enable NSOC to respond to security incidents, proactively investigate issues of fraud, conduct forensics investigations, and perform network and software audits. This software will allow NSOC to collect, preserve, and analyze activity, performance and data for all VA servers, desktops, and laptops in real-time without disrupting operations.  
  
The required Software Maintenance Service (SMS) provides for EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component software license upgrades, technical support, bug fixes, unlimited call center support access, and user access to the EnCase Website solutions database to address software problems or issues. The total estimated price of the proposed action is [REDACTED], inclusive of the 12-month base period and four 12-month option periods for continued SMS.
  
4. Authority: This acquisition will be conducted under the authority of the Multiple-Award Schedule Program. The specific authority providing for a limited source award is Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B), "Only one source is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized."
  
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: VA-owned EnCase Enterprise forensic infrastructure software, consisting of EnCase Enterprise Examiner, EnCase Enterprise Servlet, EnCase Enterprise Snapshot, and Secure Authentication for EnCase are currently deployed on all VA servers, desktops,

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and laptops. The required EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software licenses are complimentary to the existing brand name EnCase Enterprise forensic infrastructure software VA NSOC has been using since 2006. Procuring the EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software licenses will allow VA NSOC to continue to build upon its present brand name EnCase Enterprise forensic infrastructure software platforms, which have undergone and passed multiple phases of testing prior to its current use in production environments. Since the current VA NSOC forensic software infrastructure consists solely of EnCase products, any software used to expand upon the infrastructure must be capable of integrating and interoperating with the currently owned EnCase products. Due to proprietary software code owned by Guidance Software Inc. for its brand name Encase family of products, there is no other product that offers the required functionality similar to brand name EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software and can also integrate into the current VA NSOC forensic software infrastructure.

Additionally, there are multiple technical features only offered in the EnCase forensic software products which are an integral component of VA NSOC's incident response and analysis functions. EnCase supports the widest range of file systems and Operating System platforms, which enable the monitoring and analysis of the myriad of different types of systems operating on VA's network. Other brand forensic software is limited to Windows applications and fewer file systems, which would result in larger gaps of VA systems that can be monitored and reviewed. Additionally, only EnCase products allow for the ability to produce a graphical timeline of events from a forensic disk image, a key feature relied upon by VA NSOC security analysts. No other forensic software tool has this built-in feature. Without EnCase forensic software products, timeline analysis would have to be performed manually, which is extremely inefficient and ultimately would prolong the incident response and resolution process. Finally, only EnCase provides the ability to take a quick snapshot of a live system. This is critical to rapidly analyzing multiple systems and validating suspicious incidents. Without this software feature, large scale incident response would not be possible and volatile data could not be easily captured and remediated.

The only other possible solution than acquiring the EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software is to procure a completely new alternative brand forensic infrastructure solution for which the Government would not recoup its prior investment costs dating back to 2006. Even if the aforementioned technical features could be met by an alternative brand product, this re-procurement would require an entirely new software suite of products to replace the functionality of the existing EnCase infrastructure software products. This significant undertaking would require multiple technical staff members and at least twelve months of effort to install and test the new products at an estimated [REDACTED] in new forensic infrastructure software. Additionally, significant time would be required for retraining end user staff which would result in VA losing its remote forensics capability during that timeframe. Losing remote forensics capability

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would result in disruptions in NSOC internal operating system forensic software compatibility and interoperability, which would make VA networks prone to malicious attacks and risk the integrity of VA processes such as claims processing and exposure of Veteran health and personal information. These are unacceptable risks to NSOC in achieving its mission critical information protection objectives because VA's IT network supports business-critical applications concerning Veteran healthcare and personal information. Furthermore, replacing EnCase with another forensics infrastructure product could have negative effects in other areas of VA. VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) uses EnCase Enterprise Unlimited Software to conduct its investigations. Removing EnCase could disrupt OIG's monitoring and oversight efforts.

Finally, only Guidance Software Incorporated's brand name SMS can be used to support their EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software Licenses. These licenses and associated source code are proprietary and therefore only Guidance Software Incorporated or an authorized reseller can provide the required software upgrades, technical support, bug fixes, unlimited call center support access, and user access to the EnCase Web site solutions database.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 8.405-6(a)(2), this action will be synopsized on the Federal Business Opportunities website and this justification will be made publicly available within 14 days after order award.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the marketplace that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by the Government's technical experts by reviewing similar infrastructure software solutions from January 6, 2015 through February 3, 2015. The similar software products reviewed include [REDACTED]. While these products offer similar functionality to the EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software, the Government's technical experts determined that none of these products could meet the interoperability requirements and other technical features stated in section 5 of this justification. An entirely new software suite of products would need to be procured, which poses the risks explained above. Only Guidance Software Incorporated's EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software Licenses can meet VA's requirements for this effort.

A Request for Information (RFI) was issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) on March 2, 2015.

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On March 5, 2015 the RFI closed and immixTechnology, Inc. was the only company to respond. On March 12, 2015, the Contract Specialist contacted the original equipment manufacturer, Guidance Software Incorporated, to determine if immixTechnology, Inc. is the sole authorized reseller of the subject software licenses. Guidance Software Incorporated confirmed that immixTechnology, Inc. is the sole authorized reseller of EnCase Enterprise v7 Unlimited Component Software licenses to the Federal Government, and is a prime contract holder on NASA SEWP IV and V GWACs and GSA FSS 70.

9. Other Facts: None.