

JUSTIFICATION
FOR EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: This proposed action is to include brand name specifications in a firm-fixed-price delivery order to be issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Government-wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC).
3. Description of Supplies or Services: VA, Office of Information Technology (OI&T), Service Delivery and Engineering (SDE), Enterprise Operations (EO) has a requirement for 128 brand name VMware vRealize Operations 6 Advanced Edition (vRealize) software suite licenses and associated maintenance support. vRealize is an automated operations management software solution that provides patented analytics and integrated performance, capacity, and configuration management functions for highly virtualized and cloud infrastructures. vRealize is specifically built for system administrators to more effectively manage the performance of their virtual VMware environments as they move to a private cloud computing environment. vRealize software enables VA to obtain better visibility and actionable intelligence to proactively ensure application and system availability and service levels. vRealize ensures optimum resource usage and configuration compliance of systems and applications operating in VA virtual and cloud environments, which will result in higher quality of service, reduced security and data breach incidents, reduced downtime of infrastructure and application services, improved user collaboration and increased productivity due to better system and application operational visibility across the entire environment. Additional efficiencies anticipated from this operations management software are infrastructure cost savings, better resource utilization through capacity optimizations, decreased number of tools required to monitor the environment and ensuring continuous compliance with Federal and VA-specific Information Technology (IT) policies and regulatory requirements. Associated maintenance is required for the vRealize software suite to ensure it remains operational in supporting VMware virtualized environments. The period of performance is 12-months from date of award.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B) "Only one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or service is ordered are unique or highly specialized."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited: This brand name justification is in support of FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. Based on extensive market research, as described in section 8 of this justification, it was determined that limited competition is available through authorized resellers of the aforementioned brand name software suite and maintenance. vRealize software and maintenance is required to manage the expansion of the existing VMware virtual infrastructure for the OI&T, SDE, EO. This acquisition proposes to procure 128 brand name VMware management operations software suites and maintenance. Due to the proprietary source code that is required to interoperate and perform management operations with the existing VMware infrastructure; no other brand name software product is interoperable or compatible with the currently fielded VMware virtual infrastructure. If another software suite was introduced into the currently fielded VMware virtual infrastructure, it would not be able to communicate with the existing virtual infrastructure. The existing EO virtual machine infrastructure prohibits the use of a management operations software suite other than VMware. Replacing the present management suite would require EO to replace the existing virtual infrastructure and all of the present management architecture associated with the virtual infrastructure. The costs associated with replacement of the existing VMware virtual infrastructure and management architectures would not be recovered through competition. Additionally, no other software meets all of VA's functional requirements which include health monitoring and alerting in all infrastructure areas, ability to provide predictive analytics, ability to provide visibility of systems and applications across all layers of the infrastructure, ability to collect and analyze performance data and correlate abnormalities, and identify the root cause of infrastructure, system and application performance problems.
6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the section 8 of this justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined, however, that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers for the required brand name software suites and maintenance. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), this action will be synopsisized and this justification will be made publicly available on the Federal Business Opportunities Page within 14 days of award. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A)(2) the justification and request for quotation will be posted to all contract awardees on the NASA SEWP V GWAC.
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: VA technical representatives performed market research from May 2014 to Jan 2015. This research included review of similar software and maintenance from companies including Dell Computer, GovPlace, and Iron Bow to determine if comparable software was available and could meet VA's requirements. Potential sources were identified but couldn't meet all of the requirements due primarily to the proprietary source code required by the existing VMware virtual

infrastructure used to perform health monitoring, performance alerts and predictive analytics on systems and applications operating on this virtual infrastructure. vRealize software is the only product that can meet all of VA's interoperability and functional requirements whereas SolarWinds Virtualization and Foglight software manager products cannot access the proprietary source code to interoperate with the existing EO virtual infrastructure and only look at storage infrastructure components and do not perform VA functional requirements to provide health monitoring, performance alerts, and predictive analytics in all virtual infrastructure areas. Unlike the other product lines noted above, vRealize has the capability VA requires to learn what 'normal' is for its environment and provide predictive analytics. The term 'normal' refers to the expected behavior of an IT infrastructure environment. Replacing the present management suite will require SDE EO to replace its existing virtual infrastructure and all of the present management architectural structures. Utilizing software products without this capability would impact continuation of system and application operations on the virtual infrastructure, as it would require architectural changes. Any other management operations software does not meet the VA functional requirements for visibility across all layers of the virtual infrastructure like the way vRealize collects and analyzes performance data, correlates abnormalities, and identifies the root cause of increasing performance problems. vRealize collects data from various virtual and physical systems (networking, storage, computer database, virtual, etc.) and provides proactive alerts as to when a problem may occur in the future. Market research determined that the use of the VMware brand vRealize software is essential to meet the Government's requirements and thereby precludes no other product can meet the requirements. vRealize is the only product that meets the VA's requirements for reliability, maintainability, functionality, scalability, performance, and security within the existing virtualization environment.

9. Other Facts: None.