

JUSTIFICATION
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

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 modification to Firm-Fixed Price (FFP) Task Order (TO) VA118-1001-0030 issued under Contract Number VA118-11-D-1001 in order to expand the scope of the current requirement. Currently, the TO is in Option Period 1, which ends on November 3, 2015. This action will encompass performance through November 3, 2015 as there are no additional options. The purpose of this modification is to provide additional System Administration Support services to manage and maintain the new backup and storage array networks, to support video teleconferencing (VTC) expansion due to the expiration of the Computer Merchant Contract, and to perform SharePoint services.

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The services acquired under this TO are to provide System Administration Support for Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) Information Technology Services and Support (ITSS) Non-Production, Preproduction and Production Environment for all servers, backup solutions and storage array networks. New Secretary Initiatives and special projects, such as MyVA, have increased the demand for data storage in the National Capital Region Readiness Center (CRRC) servers and Storage Array Networks (SAN). Therefore, additional backup and storage array networks have been acquired that need to be managed.

This request is for a one (1) time acquisition for additional System Administration Support to manage the newly acquired backup and storage array networks that provide data storage in the CRRC. System Administration Support includes the existing requirements for operations and maintenance support for the Network Division, Unified Communications Division and System Administration Division. This acquisition will also provide bridge support for VTC expansion and SharePoint services within VACO ITSS until a new task order is awarded combining all of the requirements. VTC support services support are required to operate the audio visual (AV) equipment for the Executive Conference Room in the VACO Campus, provide VTC help desk support, VTC conference scheduling and monitoring, and configure VTC endpoints. Additional services are also required to and to provide SharePoint support for the VACO ITSS SharePoint environment. This includes operation and maintenance, help desk, backup and recovery, configuration management, front end server support, back end database server and Dreamweaver web design.

By acquiring additional support within the current existing TO, VACO ITSS will be able to support the immediate need of data storage, expanded VTC needs, and SharePoint services in an expedient and efficient manner.

The total estimated value of the proposed action is [REDACTED] to cover the additional support services described above from approximately June 26, 2015, to November 3, 2015.

4. Statutory Authority:

The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(3) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(C), entitled "The order must be issued on a sole-source basis in the interest of economy and efficiency because it is a logical follow-on to an order already issued under the contract, provided that all awardees were given a fair opportunity to be considered for the original order."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is LongView International Technology Solutions Inc. (FirstView), 11767 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland (MD) 20852. FirstView was awarded the initial TO in November 2013 on a competitive basis under the Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology (T4) contract vehicle. Awarding the proposed action as a logical follow-on provides significant economic and efficient value to the Government. Planning a new requirement for the additional work would require a potential procurement lead time of at least two (2) months. After award, any source other than the existing Contractor would need multiple months to acquire the domain knowledge necessary for meeting the deadlines for backing up and storing VACO ITSS data under the CRRC processes and to keep the VTC equipment operational for VACO ITSS senior leadership utilization. VACO ITSS is currently at a critical level of falling behind in numerous SharePoint projects since the necessary services are not scaled to meet the additional data storage demands. Having to plan for a new procurement and get a new source up and running would not meet VA's immediate need for seamless support without a lapse in service. The existing Contractor currently has expert knowledge of the VACO ITSS domain and therefore little learning curve is required to provide SharePoint support to the SharePoint environment and VTC equipment utilized by the VACO Campus as well as support to back up and store VACO ITSS data. In addition, utilizing the current Contractor for the additional support eliminates the costs associated with on-boarding a new Contractor's personnel and transitioning to the existing level of support while saving the Government from duplicated costs associated with concurrently managing multiple task orders for the same or similar services supporting VACO ITSS. In addition to the estimated value of the requested services, the costs associated with soliciting a new requirement, evaluating the responses, creating a brand new task order, and onboarding a new contractor's personnel would result in numerous additional expenditures for the Government.

The need for more immediate support exists because without it, VACO data is at risk of not being backed-up or stored properly. If the new backup and SAN array networks were to go offline, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (SECVA) and all the VACO senior leadership would not have access to all the critical data that is stored and backed-up in the VACO ITSS servers and SAN. A failure would have a significant effect on the VA's senior leaders to make informed decisions that impact the Nation's

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Veterans that receive services and benefits from the VA. Additionally, lack of the VTC support and SharePoint services would have a negative impact to the senior leadership of the VA as SharePoint sites are relied upon to store, collaborate and exchange information that directly leads to Veterans benefits and health care policies. VA senior leadership has a significant preference for face to face meetings, and relies on the support of the current Contractor to operate the VTC equipment in the executive conference rooms, schedule and monitor VTC bridge calls, and maintain the VTC equipment in order to make them happen. Any learning curve could lead to inoperable VTC equipment, which can lead to delays in new Veterans' initiative and benefits due to failure to communicate across VA senior leadership as part of critical decision making.

The additional System Administration services including VTC and SharePoint support are being included in the current task order as a stop gap measure for six months, since it is anticipated that VACO ITSS' existing and expanding requirements requested under this modification will be consolidated into a single effort and re-competed under T4 at the conclusion of the current task order. This strategy is further in line with the new VACO ITSS Chief Information Officer's goal to consolidate requirements under a single task order to reduce the efforts associated with managing various requirements under multiple support contractors. Under this initiative, the VACO ITSS office can save at least \$33,000 in VA Program Management costs alone in addition to the overhead costs associated with multiple support contractors.

The current Contractor, FirstView, has an already established relationship within VACO ITSS and possesses domain knowledge of the CRRC that is critical to meeting these additional System Administration Support services. This logical follow-on acquisition will allow for efficient and seamless support.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2), this action will be synopsisized at award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and the justification will be made publicly available.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: There are no barriers to future competition. This action is a short term acquisition for immediate support for the remaining Option Period 1 period of performance. A competitive task order is anticipated to be awarded following the expiration of this task order which encompasses VACO ITSS requirement across its mission.

8. Market Research: Market Research was performed in March 2015, by the Government's technical experts to determine the availability of other sources that are capable of satisfying the aforementioned requirements. Market Research was performed by researching various Contractors' capabilities under T4. While sources were found that could meet VA's general capabilities, no sources were found that could economically and efficiently meet VA's requirements in a seamless manner within the immediate timeframe required.

9. Other Facts: No additional facts.