

## SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Office of Acquisition Operations  
Technology Acquisition Center  
1701 Directors Blvd., Ste. 600  
Austin, Texas 78774
2. Description of Action: This proposed action is for a sole source firm-fixed-price purchase order to Aperta.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA, Debt Management Center (DMC) requires the annual renewal of Aperta software maintenance and technical support for existing perpetual licenses, to include a 12-month base period and four 12-month option periods. Aperta software allows VA-DMC users to store images of all correspondence and maintain electronic audit trails for VA accounts. The software will be updated from Release 4 to Release 5, and will require a one-time installation charge. The installation services offered by Aperta include the installation of Release 5 on the DMC server, including the modifications that VA Debt Services has built into the system. The installation will also include the integration of the custom interface to the Federal Reserve and compatibility testing with companion software products. ■ The total estimated value of the proposed action is [REDACTED] including options.
4. Statutory Authority: In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 13.106-1(b)(1), "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" for purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold."
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is Aperta. Aperta has no authorized resellers as detailed in the market research section of this document. VA-DMC currently owns "per scanner" licenses for Aperta software. DMC has used Aperta software for several years and has a significant investment in the product. Only Aperta can provide the necessary software updates because of the proprietary source code required to develop and implement the software maintenance. Competing for new software would not result in savings, and the purchase of Aperta brand name software maintenance is more advantageous to the Government.
6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. The proposed action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page in

accordance with FAR 5.201. Any proposals that are received will be evaluated.

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

8. Market Research: VA technical personnel conducted market research in August 2015, which consisted of a review of the existing Aperta software. As a result of the market research, the technical experts confirmed that the source code required to issue the updates is proprietary to Aperta. Therefore, no other contractor has the capability of developing and issuing software updates and fixes for Aperta software necessary to support existing VA-DMC requirements. Additionally, the cost of software maintenance is significantly less expensive than replacing existing software. [REDACTED]

In August 2015, the contract specialist conducted market research by issuing a Request for Information to all Groups under the North American Industry Classification System code 541519 on National Aeronautics and Space Administration Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract, and by searching General Services Administration (GSA) E-Buy. Searches for Aperta providers on SEWP and GSA did not yield any results. The contract specialist also contacted Aperta directly and confirmed it does not have any resellers.

9. Other Facts: None.

