

JUSTIFICATION FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition and Logistics
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of the Action: The proposed action is for the procurement of Operations, Maintenance, Administration, Provisioning, and Repair (OMAPR) services for the Enterprise Voice System (EVS) Proof of Concept sites, which may include support for the migration of services to new EVS expansion sites and continuing OMAPR support for new sites. In support of this effort the Government requires brand name Microsoft Windows Server. This requirement will be solicited on the Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology (T4) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract vehicle.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: The Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), Service Delivery and Engineering (SDE), Enterprise Systems Engineering (ESE), and Office of Information Security (OIS) requires the procurement of Microsoft Windows Server licenses and maintenance support for use as the operating system underlying South River Technologies, Titan SFTP Server on Cisco Unified Communications Servers (UCS) to implement backup, Call Detail Record (CDR) storage, and file sharing between other VA Network Monitoring Systems (NMS) for the Enterprise Voice System within the VA. Microsoft Windows Server operating system is the backbone architecture integrating multiple applications into a single system to provide voice services within VA. This software licensing and support will ensure the currently fielded software remains operational and secure. The EVS implementation is mission critical for providing The total estimated price of the required licenses is [REDACTED] inclusive of all option periods. The period of performance for this effort is 12 months from date of award with four 12-month option periods.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting this exception to fair opportunity is 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled "Only one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized."
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Cisco only certifies four SFTP packages, which requires use of one of them as a condition of providing support to their UC infrastructure applications. Of the four certified SFTP packages, Titan SFTP is the only one approved in the OneVA Technical Reference Model (TRM) which has full manufacture software support. South River Technologies Titan SFTP server only runs on the Microsoft Windows platform. Additionally, EVS

requires core services which include dedicated technical support representatives and subject matter experts to support and assist EVS in operation, management, implementation and integration with the underlying operating system platform. Microsoft Windows Server is the only operating system platform which will interface with all core EVS Applications.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. Competition is not anticipated for this required brand name item.
7. Actions to Increase Competition: In future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will work with the program office to perform additional market research so that other possible solutions can be considered. If other products become available that meet compatibility requirements with the existing hardware, solicitations for future requirements will utilize "brand name or equal" language, if it is in the Government's best interest to do so. In accordance with FAR 5.202(a)(6), this effort is exempt from synopsis since the proposed contract action is an order placed under an existing Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) contract.
8. Market Research: Market research was conducted in June 2015 to determine if any other Server Operating System could meet the Government's requirements by conducting a search to evaluate other operating systems, including Oracle Solaris, Novell, Unix, and Linux. Only Microsoft Windows Server operating systems were shown to be fully compatible with all the major core EVS applications (Cisco Unified Communications Server, VMWare vSphere, and South River Technologies, Titan SFTP Server). Other server operating systems are compatible with some but not all of the EVS applications. South River Technologies, Titan SFTP Server which is used to securely store federally mandated Call Detail Records is only compatible with Microsoft Windows Server. Repeated attempts at further market research on September 2, 2015, using Google searches to attempt to determine methods of running other operating systems, including Oracle Solaris, Novell, Unix, and Linux did not return any pages indicating that all EVS core applications would run on any server operating system other than Microsoft Windows Server. If another operating system were selected, VA would have to reconfigure 16 server platforms and purchase software and storage to replace 6 instances of South River Technologies, Titan SFTP Server, reconfigure all of CDR to maintain the 3 year retention requirement and train personnel on the operations and maintenance of the new software. This would equate to a cost over \$75,000 and take over 6 months in order to ensure everything works seamlessly with EVS.
9. Other Facts Supporting the Justification: None