

JUSTIFICATION
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

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 for a firm-fixed-price modification with Cincinnati Bell, 221 East 4th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio (OH) 45202 to extend the period of performance for Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) telecommunication and data services.

3. Description of Supplies or Services: The proposed action is for continuation of LEC telecommunications and data services to include: plain old telephone services/business lines, trunks, primary rate integrated services, direct inward dialing, Centrex, digital subscriber lines, Metro E data services and features of caller identification, call forwarding, voicemail, call blocking, and standard regulated tariff fees. The aforementioned LEC telecommunication and data services are currently being provided at several facilities throughout Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. These services are currently being provided under several accounts under contract VA118-15-C-0107 which expires September 30, 2015. The period of performance is 60 days, plus three, 30 day options. The total estimated dollar value is [REDACTED] inclusive of option periods.

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting this exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C.3304(a)(1) as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.302-1 entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements".

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Based on market research, as described in section 8 of this justification, it has been determined that only Cincinnati Bell is capable of providing the aforementioned LEC telecommunications and data services until the awarded vendor under the recently competed National LEC contract is able to install, test, and turn up new circuits for use by VA. Due to the type of services that are currently installed, no other vendor can install, test and turn up new services prior to October 1, 2015. Any other vendor would require approximately 60-90 days to provide the aforementioned LEC telecommunication and data services. Specifically any other source would have to conduct site visits at the required locations and conduct extensive reviews of the specific site to gain the knowledge required to begin the process of creating an environment that is needed to provide the aforementioned services to VA. In addition, a new vendor would have to conduct testing to ensure the service is fully compliant with VA's current environment before it can be implemented.

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 other vendors that can provide the services that can meet the Government's requirements within the given timeframe. There is no competition anticipated for this action. In accordance with FAR

5.201, the proposed action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) Page. Any proposals that are received shall be evaluated.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: VA is currently processing a competitive award on the National LEC contract for the aforementioned LEC telecommunication and data services. The anticipated award date is November 2, 2015. The current LEC telecommunication and data services with Cincinnati Bell will have to be maintained until that time.

8. Market Research: Market Research was conducted in August/September 2015 by posting a request for information (RFI) on FBO. The RFI was posted on August 23, 2015 seeking sources that could provide the coverage and services for the locations listed in section 2 with no interruption to services. The RFI closed on September 3, 2015 with no responses. Based on this market research, it was determined that only Cincinnati Bell has the ability to provide the aforementioned LEC telecommunications and data services until a new vendor is selected via competitive acquisition on the National LEC contract. A request for task execution plan was released to all three National LEC contract holders on August 27, 2015. Due to questions received from the vendors, the requirement is being revised. The amendment is anticipated to be posted on or about September 21, 2015. The anticipated award date is November 2, 2015. Therefore, no competition is anticipated for this acquisition.

9. Other Facts: None.