

JUSTIFICATION FOR SINGLE SOURCE AWARDS IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#)
(OVER MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD(\$3K) BUT NOT EXCEEDING THE SAT (\$150K))

IAW [FAR13.104](#), COs must promote competition to the maximum extent practicable to obtain supplies and services from the source whose offer is the most advantageous to the Government, considering the administrative cost of the purchase. When competition is not practicable, IAW [FAR13.106-1\(b\)](#), COs solicit from a single source for purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold. COs may solicit from one source if the CO determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available (e.g., urgency, exclusive licensing agreements, brand-name or industrial mobilization). IAW [FAR13.106-3\(b\)\(3\)](#), COs are required to include additional statements **explaining the absence of competition** (see [13.106-1](#) for brand name purchases) if only one source is solicited and the acquisition does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (does not apply to an acquisition of utility services available from only one source) or supporting the award decision if other than price-related factors were considered in selecting the supplier. This template when completed can be used to document single source awards IAW [FAR13.106-3\(b\)\(3\)](#). Note: Statements such as "only known source" or "only source which can meet the required delivery date" are inadequate to support a sole source purchase.

1. ACQUISITION PLAN ACTION ID:

VA261-15-AP-9460

**1A. PROJECT/TASK
No.**

1B. ESTIMATED AMOUNT:

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUPPLIES OR SERVICES REQUIRED AND THE INTENDED USE:

VISN 21 is requesting the commercially available "On-Site Only Subscription" to UpToDate. The use of this subscription by VA helps improve outcomes in quality, length of stay, patient safety and mortality. The subscription integrates with VistA/CPRS. It also assists practitioners to provide consistent and standardized care, thus improving the quality of care provided. It also helps reduce both adverse events and length of stay, as well as improved efficiency and patient outcomes.

3. UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS THAT LIMIT AVAILABILITY TO ONLY ONE SOURCE, WITH THE REASON NO OTHER SUPPLIES OR SERVICES CAN BE USED:

VISN 21 has standardized processes utilizing UpToDate protocols for medical treatment. VA Physicians are required to use the UpToDate decision support system reference to assist when providing patient care. UpToDate also integrates with VistA/CPRS patient data systems. This is a standardized requirement for the VISN's subscription.

4. REASON THAT SUGGESTED SOURCE IS THE ONLY SOURCE, WHICH CAN PROVIDE THE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES:

UpToDate is a proprietary product only available through the manufacturer (UpToDate, Inc.). The use of UpToDate is a standardized process throughout VISN 21 medical facilities. Therefore, this requirement does not provide for full and open competition regardless of the number of sources solicited.

5. DESCRIPTION OF MARKET RESEARCH CONDUCTED AND RESULTS OR STATEMENT WHY IT WAS NOT CONDUCTED:

A Presolicitation Notice (VA261-16-N-0063) was posted via FBO on 10-23-2015 and closed on 10-30-2015. The Presolicitation Notice was issued for the purpose of synopsisizing that the VAPAHCS intends to negotiate a sole source contract with UpToDate, Inc. for a one (1) year commercial software subscription for an evidence-based clinical decision support resource that helps healthcare practitioners make decisions at the point of care.

One response was received from EBSCO Information Services in addition to the requested source. They are offering their DynaMed Plus product as an equivalent for this requirement. After further review and correspondence, EBSCO informed VA that their regular product (DynaMed) interfaces with VistA. However, DynaMed Plus has not yet been tested or proven to integrate/interface with VistA. Therefore, DynaMed Plus is not considered a potential equal product for this requirement and EBSCO cannot be considered a source. This requirement must integrate with VistA/CPRS patient data systems. Awarding a contract for a product that has not yet been determined to function correctly with VistA/CPRS patient data systems within VISN 21 is not in the best interest of the VA.

VA will consider any future sources that express interest in this requirement as long as their products meet the minimum requirements of the VISN.

