

**JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION**

1. Identification of Agency and Contracting Activity:

Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC), Fredericksburg, VA on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of the Secretary.

2. Nature and/or Description of Action:

The proposed action is to increase the current estimated maximum ceiling contract amount from \$3,250,000.00 by \$350,000.00 to \$3,600,000.00 for the continued support of strategic planning and operational support services for the VA-DoD Interagency Care and Coordination Committee (IC3). The contractor providing the continuing support is Atlas Research, LLC, 1776 I Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006.

3. Description of Supplies or Services:

This requirement is to continue the following services that are currently provided:

IC3 is an office which serves as the central entity to monitor all VA/DoD care coordination and case management activities in support of wounded, injured, and/or ill Service members/ Veterans and their caregivers/families. IC3 will publish and maintain a comprehensive implementation plan and interagency guidance that will guide the Departments on all aspects of the program. The IC3 will generate report requirements and submit reports on the process, structure and outcomes of the implementation plan as well as the status of care coordination and case management to include lead coordinator and comprehensive plan across the Departments. The IC3 participates in taskings to existing and new work groups.

The IC3 contractor will guide and assist the IC3 and also the various subordinate Work Groups to accomplish their work – to include transition from Task Force to Committee, to assist in developing the DoD/VA Joint Strategic Plan; monitor and report progress; and facilitate the administrative functions of the Committee. The IC3 contractor will serve as the IC3's lead for all reporting activities, will liaison between the IC3 and IC3 subordinate working groups Health Executive Council Work Groups and other groups as they are formed to maintain awareness of joint efforts, provide guidance on Council requests, and ensure coordination among the groups. The IC3 contractor will provide administrative and operational support to the DoD/VA Health Executive Council.

The estimated value of this action is \$350,000.00.

4. Statutory Authority:

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C. § 253 (c)(5) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-5(b)(6) entitled, "Authorized or required by statute". The applicable statute is Public Law 109-461: "Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006," (specifically, the "Veterans First Contracting Program" outlined in 38 USC § 8127(c)).

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above:

In accordance with Public Law 109-461, codified at 38 USC § 8127, in order to increase contracting opportunities for small business concerns owned and controlled by Veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by Veterans with service-connected disabilities, contracting officers of the VA are given specific statutory authority to award a contract to a small business concern owned and controlled by Veterans using procedures other than competitive procedures (i.e. a "sole source" contract). The contracting officer may do so if "(1) such concern is determined to be a responsible source with the respect to performance of such contract opportunity; (2) the anticipated award price of the contract (including options) will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (as defined in section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403)) but will not exceed \$5,000,000; and (3) in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price that offers best value to the United States". 38 USC § 8127 (c)(1)-(3).

The current contract was awarded on September 30, 2012 with a period of performance of 60 months and a contract value of \$3,250,000.00. The contract value will be exhausted on or about December 31, 2015. The contract was used more than initially anticipated. A solicitation for the follow-on contract will be posted to Federal Business Opportunities on or about December 2015. This justification and approval in the amount of \$350,000.00 will not exceed the authorized \$5,000,000.00 limit as stated in the above paragraph. The new contract will be in place prior to April 30, 2016. It would not be cost effective to solicit and award a contract for the \$350,000.00 increase.

6. Efforts to Obtain/Increase Competition:

A notice will be published for this action on Federal Business Opportunities in accordance with FAR 6.305. This action is to increase the maximum contract ceiling amount. The maximum contract ceiling amount will be exhausted on or about December 31, 2015. The contract was used more than initially anticipated. It would not be cost effective to solicit and award a contract for the \$350,000.00 increase.

7. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Pricing:

This requirement will utilize the current contract pricing which was determined to be fair and reasonable when the contract was awarded.

8. Market Research: This action is only to increase the contract value and does not change the period of performance of the contract. Atlas Research, LLC has been verified in the Vendor Information Pages (VIP) database. The expiration date in the VIP database is March 31, 2017.

9. Other Facts: None

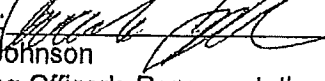
10. List of Interested Sources: N/A

11. Actions Taken to Remove Barriers to Competition:

The follow-on acquisition for this requirement will be competed on Federal Business Opportunities as a SDVOSB set-aside on or about December 2015.

12. Certifications:

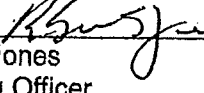
Technical and Requirements Certification: I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in this justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: 
Caroline Johnson
Contracting Officer's Representative
Office of the Secretary

Date 12/4/15

Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on FAR Subpart 15.4 (Contract Pricing).

Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: 
Robert E. Jones
Contracting Officer
Strategic Acquisition Center

Date: 12/4/15