

LIMITED SOURCE JUSTIFICATION
FOR A BRAND NAME AWARD
UNDER A FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs
Strategic Acquisition Center
10300 Spotsylvania Avenue Suite 400
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for an award of a Limited Source firm fixed price Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) to procure General Electric (GE) MAC 5500 Electrocardiography (ECG/EKG) equipment (see attached list), training, and installation for each GE MAC 5500. The terms ECG and EKG are used interchangeably. The purposed effort is to be awarded under Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) 65, A-53 in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.405-6(b)(1), Items peculiar to one manufacturer.

3. Description of Supplies: The ECG equipment is required to interface with the existing VHA Medical Centers' information systems and wireless infrastructure. The GE Muse Cardiology Information System (CIS) platform is used in VHA Medical Centers as the repository for electrocardiographs. The CIS interfaces with Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (Vista), Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), Vista Imaging and Vista Clinical Procedures software package. Vista provides VHA with vital clinical, financial, infrastructure, and management tools. The ECG equipment must permit bi-directional communication with CIS to quickly retrieve, manage, and archive patient data in order to limit patient identification errors, improve both efficiency and patient outcomes, and to protect the integrity of the historical ECG data of our Veterans.

Furthermore, the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-106) and the Computer Security Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-235) is applicable to include compatibility with Vista, CPRS, and downloading ECG orders from all systems, as necessary.

All wireless network transmissions must be in accordance with Federal Information Processing (FIPS) 140-2 Standards and transmitted electronically in accordance with (IAW) FIPS 140-2. To ensure privacy and security of Veteran health information, VA requires under VA Handbook 6500 that ECG equipment be FIPS 140-2 certified. In conjunction with the FIPS 140-2 certification, the ECG equipment must support Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) and Phase Shifting Key (PSK) encryption to ensure compatibility with the VA wireless infrastructure. WPA2 and PSK are Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11i-2004 standards for Wi-Fi encryption. IEEE 802.11 is a set of industry standards for implementing wireless local area network (WLAN) computer communication in the 2.4, 3.6 and 5GHz frequency bands and specifies security mechanisms for wireless networks. Installation services are included in the cost of the unit and will ensure interoperability with all requisite VHA information systems and training for users of the new ECG equipment. The total estimated value of the proposed action is \$11,415,958.66, which includes all available upgrades. The delivery of the ECG equipment and associated services will be within the terms of the VA FSS.

4. Authority: The acquisition is conducted under the authority of the Multiple-Award Schedule Program. The statutory authority permitting this limited source action is Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 8.405-6(b)(1), Items peculiar to one manufacturer.

GE MAC 5500 is the only commercially available ECG equipment which is both interoperable with CIS and compatible with Vista, CPRS, Vista Imaging, and Vista Clinical Procedures software packages. Specifically, the GE MAC 5500 is the only known ECG equipment that can interface with CIS in order for an ECG order to be entered into Vista/CPRS using Vista Clinical Procedures and then transmitted via CIS to the ECG equipment.

The interface between CIS and GE MAC 5500 is proprietary to GE Healthcare, therefore, no other ECG equipment can interface with CIS and no other ECG equipment can provide the combined interoperability between CIS and Vista which permits the transmission of the ECG order, and the ECG results as well as allowing clinicians access to prior ECG reports.

GE MAC 5500's multi-faceted bi-directional connection to Vista and CIS is necessary in order to limit patient identification errors, improve efficiency, improve patient outcomes, and protect the integrity of the historical ECG data of our Veterans. Finally, GE MAC 5500 is the only ECG equipment that is FIPS 140-2 certified and capable of supporting WPA2 and PSK encryption, the standards for security on wireless networks, and is interoperable with CIS and compatible with the VHA wireless infrastructure. Due to the proprietary nature of CIS, only a GE engineer can install and connect ECG equipment to the CIS network. In addition, training will be delivered via Compact Disc as a separate line item.

In accordance with FAR 8.405-6(b)(1) GE MAC 5500 is essential to the Government's requirement, and market research indicated other companies' similar products, or products lacking the particular feature, do not meet, or cannot be modified to meet, the agency's needs.

5. Determination: The CO has determined, in accordance with FAR 8.404(d), that the proposed contract action will represent the best value to the Government. VA has already determined that the prices on the FSS contract are fair and reasonable and further price analysis will be conducted and subsequent negotiations held as necessary. Additionally, price discounts will be sought.

6. FSS Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research from August 12, 2014 through March 27, 2015 to identify ECG equipment capable of meeting the needs of VHA. The technical experts gathered market research from a variety of sources using variety of techniques outlined in the Market Research Report. Technical experts reviewed the functionality of three prominent brand name ECG equipment manufacturers. The market research was conducted via a web based search as well as direct telephone contact with the technical support team of other ECG equipment manufacturers. The three brand names researched included were Philips- Touch System ECG, Nihon Koden ECG machines, and GE Healthcare. Of the three (3) manufacturers contacted, only GE Healthcare products meet all of VA's functional requirements. Most significantly, GE brand was the only manufacturer fully capable of interfacing with CIS and compatible with the VHA wireless infrastructure.

A Request for Information (RFI), VA119-15-N-0156 was posted on FedBizOps from March 18, 2015 to March 27, 2015 identifying the Minimum Technical Requirement (MTRs) of the ECG equipment required by VA. Six vendors responded, three of which were authorized distributors for GE Medical Systems Information Technology, Inc. as identified in the table below:

Contractor	Socio-Economic	Distributor	Manufacturer	FSS Contract #
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Trillamed, Inc.	SDVOSB	Yes	No	V797P-4269B
Mortara Instrument, Inc.	SB	No	Yes	V797D-30329
Veterans Healthcare Supply Solutions (VHSS)	SDVOSB	Yes	No	V797D-40049
GE Medical Systems Information Technologies, Inc.	Large	No	Yes	V797P-2239D

- 1) Jaken Medical, Inc. has an altered GE Healthcare license agreement to sell to non-hospital market. However, GE Healthcare has authorized them to sell to Government hospitals to support this requirement.
- 2) Dixie Medical has an altered GE Healthcare license agreement to sell to non-hospital market. However, GE Healthcare has authorized them to sell to Government hospitals to support this requirement.
- 3) Trillamed, Inc. is an exclusive distributor of GE Healthcare to the Federal Government and is the sole distributor authorized to provide GSA/FSS pricing referencing the schedule contracts V797P-2227d and V797P-2239d which carries the requested products but issued to GE Healthcare.

Based on the market research, only GE MAC 550 can meet VA's requirement for ECG equipment at VHA Medical Centers. There are small business schedule holders authorized to distribute GE MAC 5500.

7. Other Facts: Standardization concepts are applicable for this acquisition as materiel standardization is a primary objective this procurement.

8. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will work with the program office to perform additional market research so that other solutions can be considered. In addition, VHA will consider generic system reconfiguration during future upgrades to eliminate required proprietary equipment installation.

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

Simone Jackson
Contracting Officer

Date _____
Signature 922843

Simone Jackson

Digitally signed by Simone Jackson 922843
DN: cn=gov, o=va, ou=attest, ou=people,
c=US 2342 19200109 100.1 1=va0001.jta.56a
1d=gov, cn=Simone Jackson 922843
Date: 2015.10.08 07:37:09 -0400

10. 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.

FOR Carl G. Gardner
Program Manager

Tracy J. Derby
Date: 706016
Signature: 706016

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gov, cn=Tracy J. Derby 706016
Date: 2015.10.06 13:18:30 -04'00'

11. Legal Sufficiency Certification: I have reviewed this justification and find it legally sufficient as to formalities and compliance with the requirements set forth in FAR 8.405-6 only."

Bridget E. Grant
Legal Counsel

BRIDGET E GRANT
Date: 283232
Signature: _____

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0.9.2342.1.9200300.100.1.1=bridget.e.grant@va.
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Justification Approval

In my role as Activity Competition Advocate, based on the foregoing justification, I hereby approve a Limited Source Small Business Set-Aside to establish a Firm-Fixed Price BPA for GE MAC 5500 ECG/EKG Diagnostic Systems. I also give approval for restricting consideration of schedule contractors to fewer than required by FAR 8.405-1(d), pursuant to the authority of FAR 8.405-6 (b), subject to availability of funds, and provided that the supplies herein described have otherwise been authorized for acquisition.

Date: 11/5/15

Signature: _____

Elegear Primus
Activity Competition Advocate