

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
1701 Director's Blvd.
Austin, TX 78744

2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed-price purchase order to DF/Net Research, Inc. (women-owned small business).

3. Description of Supplies or Services: The VA, Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System, Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Centers (CSPCC), requires the renewal of term software licenses and maintenance of two DataFax software servers and to renew one server license. The first DataFax Server is running DataFax 3.8 with six seats, and a second DataFax Server is running DataFax 4.2 with 42 seats. This also includes the VA Hines CSPCC renewal of one server license to provide continued access to the Perry Point DataFax 4.2 software server. CSPCC currently uses the DataFax system software to execute electronic data entry instead of faxing forms into DataFax. The DF/Net Research, Inc., software solution provides a more efficient method of continued data collection and management that is necessary to conduct multi-site research studies. The DataFax servers store all the study data of the multi-center clinical trials conducted at the CSPCCs located in Perry Point, Maryland, and Hines, Illinois. The total estimated value of the proposed action is [REDACTED], with a period of performance of May 3, 2016, to May 2, 2017.

4. Statutory Authority: In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 13.106-1(b)(1)(i), "Contracting officers may solicit from one source if the contracting officer determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available..." for purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is:

DF/Net Research, Inc.
140 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 310
Seattle, WA 98122

DF/Net Research, Inc., is the sole provider of the CSPCC's required DataFax software, as detailed in the market research section. DF/Net Research, Inc., owns all proprietary program language and intellectual property of all software products under the DataFax umbrella. As explained in paragraph 8 of this document, other software products exist with similar capabilities, but these products do not satisfy the CSPCC's performance requirements for execution of clinical study trial management. Further, as DataFax is the existing platform at CSPCC, other software maintenance or licenses would not integrate or be interoperable. DF/Net Research's DataFax software is the only product option that can satisfy VA CSPCC's requirements for hybrid fax/electronic data capture capabilities and support. Disruption in service would have a negative effect on ongoing trials and the Veterans enrolled in these studies.

Sole Source Justification DataFax Server Term Software License and Maintenance Renewal

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Recent market research conducted, detailed in paragraph 8 of this document, has confirmed that no additional sources have emerged that can meet the Government's requirements without the need for multiple procurements or an undetermined amount of customization to one or more commercial products. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. Procurement data does not include any unnecessary requirements that may inhibit competition. In accordance with FAR 5.101(a)(1), this action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities page (FBO). Therefore, the Government will post the synopsis, Request for Quotation, and Sole Source Justification to FBO, and send the link to the posting to DF/Net Research, Inc. Any quotes that are received shall be evaluated.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the marketplace that would enable competition in future actions.

8. Market Research: In February 2016, VA technical experts conducted market research by searching the internet to identify other software with the capability to meet the performance requirements. [REDACTED] were the two software products identified, which had similar capabilities; however, neither of these software products can function on the existing DataFax server platform. Further, a DF/Net Research, Inc., authorized representative confirmed that DF/Net Research, Inc., does not contract with any resellers for the distribution of their products and services. Therefore, as a result of the market research efforts, VA technical experts concluded that DF/Net Research, Inc., is the only source through which this requirement may be procured.

In March 2016, the Contract Specialist (CS) conducted market research using web searches; contacting DF/Net Research, Inc., directly; searching the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC); and searching the General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS). Searches for DataFax products and services on NASA SEWP V GWAC and GSA FSS via requests for information and product lookup tools did not yield any results. Further, web searches and directly contacting DF/Net Research, Inc., confirmed that DF/Net Research, Inc., is the only source capable of meeting the requirement.

9. Interested Sources: None.