

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval
Under
Simplified Acquisition Procedures (SAP)
For Restricting Competition under FAR 13.106-1(b)(1) "Single Source"

1. **Contracting Activity:**
Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 20, Portland VA Medical Center.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:**
This procurement under is under PR # 648-12-1-027-0001. It is for Nursing Executive Center Membership for FY2012, where in accordance with FAR 6.001(a), acquisitions conducted under FAR 13 for SAP are exempt from the requirements of FAR Part 6, but still require a justification using the format of FAR 6.303-2, IAW the VHA SOP for Other Than Full And Open Competition dated 3-22-2011. The action will be awarded as a new action, firm-fixed-price purchase order.
3. **Description of Supplies or Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**
Nursing Executive Center Membership for FY 2012 (October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012) provides nurse executives with surveys, tools, and best practice insights. A one-year membership for the VAMC Portland is \$32,801.00.
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Restriction in Competition: 41 U.S.C. 253(c)**
The statutory authority for restricting competition under SAP, or Single Sourcing, for acquisitions under \$150,000 or Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) is 41 U.S.C. 253(c), as implemented by FAR 13.106-1(b)(1). The specific reason for restricting competition is unusual and compelling urgency per FAR 6.302-2.
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**
The current membership expires on 9/30/2011. Membership with the Nursing Executive Center of the Advisory board Company gives VAMC Portland nursing executives access to national member meetings, on-call expert consultations, analytical tools, a research library on leading-edge issues facing health care, web conferences, a once-a-year onsite presentation, and daily email briefings regarding legislative updates, industry trends, executive movement, and Advisory Board insights. The customer finds no other source able to provide all this information. This information is vital to the VAMC Portland nursing program because the Portland VA Medical Center is designated as a Magnet Facility by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In order to maintain the Magnet designation, Portland VA Medical Center is driven to closely examine every aspect of its nursing system. Membership in the Nursing Executive Center gives access to tools that leads the Portland VA Medical Center to be able to identify those processes that exemplify nursing excellence and to improve those gaps that may need further development. This in turn helps the Portland VA Medical Center firmly establish a positive environment of patient safety and continuous evidenced-based improvement in patient care. It is urgent that the membership not expire without a renewal because it would degrade the Magnet status of the nursing executives at the Portland VA Medical Center. For example, the research libraries are used daily by the nurse executives. The membership must renew without a lapse on 10/1/2011.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to Ensure that Offers are Solicited from As Many Potential Sources as Deemed Practicable IAW FAR 13.104:**
None due to the reasons expressed in paragraph 8 below.

7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable – IAW FAR 13.106-3:**

The Contracting Officer's determination that \$32,801.00 is a fair and reasonable price is based on ^{comparison with} pricing for the same service to the private sector.

8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or Statement of Reasons Market Research was not Conducted (FAR 10):**

Market Research was not conducted under the instant procurement because Contracting had reason to believe an order would be placed under a BPA to complete this procurement. The Advisory Board Company had a GSA contract, GS-10F-0230U and VISN 20 had a BPA with the Advisory Board Company, VA260-BP-0050, based on the GSA contract. The term of the VISN 20 BPA was set to expire on 09-30-2013. This week Contracting became aware that the GSA contract was cancelled in December 2010. The schedule contract upon which the BPA was established is not in effect (FAR 8.405-3 (e)). Therefore the VISN 20 BPA is no longer in effect.

9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Restriction of Competition:**

None.

10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

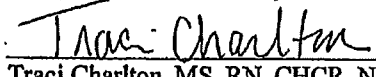
None.

11. **Statement of Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making Subsequent Acquisitions for the Supplies or Services Required:**

This membership will be for only one year. In the future VISN 20 Contracting can post a synopsis on the Federal Business Opportunities website for competition.

12. Requirements Certification - IAW FAR 6.303-2(c):

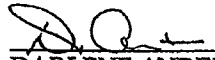
I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a bonafide need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Traci Charlton, MS, RN, CHCR, NEA-BC
Associate Chief Nursing Officer
Nursing Professional Services

9/28/11
Date

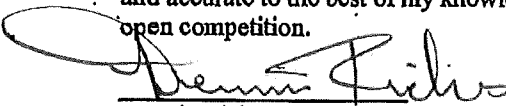
13. Approvals IAW VHA SOP 3.22.11:

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification: (required)** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.


DARLENE ANDERSON
Contracting Officer
VISN 20 Services Team

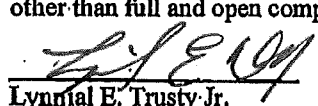
29 Sep 2011
Date

- b. **Quality Assurance Manager:** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and recommend approval for other than full and open competition.


Dennis Riches
VISN 20 Contracts QA Manager
VISN 20 Acquisition Division

9-29-2011
Date

- c. **Acquisition Manager's Review and Approval:** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and recommend approval for other than full and open competition.


Lynn E. Trusty Jr.
VISN 20 Network Contracts Manager
Service Area Office - West

9/29/2011
Date