

JUSTIFICATION FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, NJ 07724

2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed price delivery order to be issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) for Hewlett Packard (HP) 3PAR storage.

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA Office of Information and Technology, Veterans Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI) has a requirement for HP 3PAR storage, which consists of one (1) HP 3PAR 8400 storage array, (24) HP 3PAR 7400 Disk to the existing 3PAR, and (100) EVA legacy disk. The brand name HP 3PAR storage will be integrated into the established VINCI infrastructure, located at the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC). The period of performance for delivery and installation is 60 days from the date of award with a five year extended warranty. The total estimated price of the proposed action is [REDACTED]

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled “[o]nly one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized.”

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Based on the market research, as described in section 8 of this document, it was determined that limited competition is available among authorized resellers for the brand name HP 3PAR storage requirements as described in section 3. VA has a requirement to enhance the current VINCI environment with additional storage capacity for the existing HP servers located within the AITC. This is a critical infrastructure needed to allow VINCI projects the capacity, Input/Output per Second, and throughput necessary to meet increasing database size and performance requirements. VINCI project databases are currently in jeopardy of halted growth due to lack of space and performance, which for some projects are already at, or beyond, peak capacity. A critical function of the VINCI infrastructure is to provide backup capability to the VA Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) which is based solely upon HP hardware and software. VINCI duplicates all of its data in CDW. Having the same HP equipment as the CDW allows VINCI seamless machine to machine transfers which also allows “inplace” movement of data. Without this seamless transfer of data there would be downtime which would negatively effect the users and ultimately the patients. Therefore, the VINCI hardware/software infrastructure must “mirror” the CDW hardware/software infrastructure without deviation to assure seamless transition in the event of catastrophic failure. Since the CDW is based solely upon HP hardware and software, no other Original Equipment

Manufacturers (OEMs) products can be utilized in the VINCI infrastructure without jeopardizing this critical function. HP storage array is the only storage array compatible with the existing HP hardware and software within the VINCI environment and that also allow management control of the hardware and software with existing VA management tools. Specifically, the VINCI hardware/software environment utilizes the HP management tool HP SIM to monitor all hardware components, alert of any issues, and provide the ability to deploy software/agents. In addition, VINCI and CDW utilize HP only tools such as the Integrated Management Console (IMC) and StorageServ Management Console (SSMC), which have been successfully used to monitor, support, and provide metrics for HP 3PAR Storage Devices. The additional storage to be procured by this action will be integrated into existing HP hardware, and managed by the existing HP SIM, IMC, and SSMC management software. The 3PAR system will be federated using the Peer Motion software capabilities, so it will be possible to load balance the data with the six existing 3PAR storage arrays within AITC VINCI/CDW/RDW. No product, other than HP 3PAR storage, can be managed by the existing software and provide the required compatibility to the existing equipment. The brand name HP 3PAR Storage is the only storage array that meets the Government's requirements.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this justification. The research did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined, however, that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers for the storage. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), this action will be synopsisized and the justification will be made publically available on the Federal Business Opportunities page within 14 days of award of the award. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A), this justification will be provided with the solicitation to all contract holders on the NASA SEWP V GWAC.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will continue to perform market research to see if there are there are other storage units able to meet VA's needs. Currently the Government's technical experts are attending trade shows and reading storage magazines to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research in November 2015, and reaffirmed that research in January 2016, to determine the availability of a storage array capable of meeting VA's requirements. VA's technical experts researched internet sites and contacted vendors through phone and email to inquire about compatability, interoperability, performance monitoring, alert capability and warranty support for storage arrays for the VINCI infrastructure. The market research demonstrated that other OEMs, specifically Oracle, Hitachi, EMC, IBM, and DDN, do not provide storage arrays that are compatible with existing VINCI infrastructure to include supporting VINCI's critical CDW backup function. This is particularly true for the load balancing between the numerous 3PAR Storage Area Network arrays that already exist in the VINCI/CDW environment.

Additionally, market research was conducted by the Contract Specialist in February 2016 using the NASA SEWP V Product Verification and Manufacturer Lookup tools to identify contract holders offering the required HP storage array. Based upon the search results, it was determined that there are six authorized resellers capable of providing the required brand name HP storage array on NASA SEWP V. Therefore, based upon the results of the market research on NASA SEWP V, there is reasonable expectation that adequate competition will be available among HP authorized resellers on NASA SEWP V.

9. Other Facts: None.

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11. 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 the fact that contracts awarded on the NASA SEWP V GWAC have already been determined to be fair and reasonable. Additionally, further price competition is expected amongst NASA SEWP V GWAC holders in response to this requirement. Finally, the successful quotation will be compared to the Independent Government Cost Estimate.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13. Legal Sufficiency Certification: I have reviewed this justification and find it adequate to support an exception to fair opportunity and deem it legally sufficient.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Approval

In my role as Advocate for Competition, based on the foregoing justification, I hereby approve the acquisition of HP 3PAR Storage on an other then fair opportunity basis, pursuant to the authority cited in paragraph 4 above, subject to the availability of funds, and provided that the property and services herein described have been authorized for acquisition.

