

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval (J&A) For Other Than Full and Open Competition (>\$150K)

Acquisition Plan Action ID: VA244-16-AP-6249

1. **Contracting Activity:** Network Contracting Office 4, on behalf of Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 4, Wilkes Barre Medical Center, 1111 East End Boulevard, Wilkes Barre, PA 18711.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This request is for a new firm fixed price contract to upgrade the existing centralized Jeron 680 Nurse Call System which is currently in use at the facility to a new nurse call nurse call system to be compatible with the Jeron 790 headend system that is being replaced with the new ER project. The existing nurse call system will be replaced in patient care areas of 2CLC, 3CLC, 4 East, 4 SPU, 4 ICU, and 4 OR/PACU. The system will include new patient room stations with integral code blue call button capability; patient bathroom stations with audio communication with nurses' master station; and multicolored prism call lights which can be programmable for color of choice for identification of patient call placed to be placed outside each bathroom and patient room for visual communication of patient call. The contract shall include all necessary equipment, software licenses and labor needed to install devices, program, test, certify and train staff. The Jeron Nurse Call System is critical infrastructure patient related communication equipment located at each patient's bedside; it assists in providing standardization notification to the nursing care staff for patients needing bedside assistance. The Jeron 790 System upgrade and installation is an essential requirement in order for the facility to continue providing our Veteran patients with the highest standard quality care.

The nurse call/code blue system is a highly specialized, major patient safety system. The Jeron Nurse Call System and components are currently installed throughout the Wilkes Barre VAMC and are linked to a central computer system. Operating two independent systems within the same facility would require a duplication of resources, space, and system knowledge and would result in substantial duplication of cost. Therefore, a brand name procurement is required.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** This procurement is a necessary requirement for the upgrade of the existing nurse call system used in the Medical Center. The new Jeron 790 head end system is being installed in conjunction with the Wilkes Barre VA Medical Center's newly renovated Emergency Department. This will allow complete compatibility with the new Jeron 790 head end system. Approximate estimated value is \$370,000.00. Estimated delivery of material is 3 to 5 weeks following receipt of PO.

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4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:

- (x) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
- () (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
- () (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
- () (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
- () (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
- () (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
- () (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;

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 nurse call/code blue system is a highly specialized, major patient safety system. The Jeron Nurse Call System and components are currently installed throughout the hospital and are linked to a central computer system. Operating two independent systems within the same facility would require a duplication of resources, space, and system knowledge and would result in substantial duplication of cost. Therefore, a brand name procurement is required.

As evidenced by a recent procurement and confirmed again with the manufacturer, Jeron Electronic Systems, Inc., the manufacturer of the product, does not intend to provide a quote for this project. Per Jeron, only one vendor, eComm Life Safety Systems, is authorized to provide and install the Jeron Nurse Call System in the geographic area in which the Wilkes Barre VAMC is located. (eComm is the authorized distributor for Jeron in Pennsylvania (west of Penn State), New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware.) eComm is a small business. Based on this limitation on distributorship and the brand name requirement, a sole source award to eComm Life Safety Systems is required.

6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable: N/A

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable: It is anticipated that the cost of the services to be performed will be negotiated on a firm fixed price basis and will be determined fair and reasonable in accordance with the FAR 12.209.

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted: See #5 and #6 above.

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition: N/A

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition: See #5 and #6 above.

11. A Statement of the 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:

At that point in time when the Medical Center may require a complete replacement of the nurse call system, the facility will explore systems available from various manufacturers so as to ensure competition among many potential vendors.

12. **Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide 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.

English,
Christopher D.

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Christopher D. English, PE
Chief, Facility Management Service
Wilkes Barre VA Medical Center

13. **Approvals in accordance with the VHAPM, Volume 6, Chapter VI: OFOC SOP.**

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

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Lang 337378

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Contracting Officer
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- b. **Director of Contracting /Designee (Required \$150K and above):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

Elizabeth R. Morin
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Elizabeth Morin
Chief, Commodities Team
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