

Service Area Office, East  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
James E VanZandt VA Medical Center  
2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd  
Altoona, PA 16602

February 3, 2012

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 04, James E Van Zandt VA Medical Center  
Justification for Other than Full and Open Competition
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** Renewal of contract.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** Performax<sup>3</sup> is an online environment that offers hosting services for 40 online learning modules. Performax<sup>3</sup> will also provide VA tailored support in the areas of online learning customization, SCORM, 508 compliance, and ASCC compliance.
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):**
6. a. **Only One Responsible Source (FAR 6.302-1)**

There are a number of governing/accreditation bodies including The Joint Commission, OSHA, and VHA that require the Altoona VAMC to provide a variety of training programs (e.g., safety, health, ethics, etc.) to VA employees annually. Likewise, Medical Center Leadership is mandated to meet additional training requirements throughout the year which must be created, tracked, and reported, often with very short turnaround times.

Performax<sup>3</sup> is on the GSA Schedule. The vendor offers the services and skill sets needed to meet assigned training requirements. Performax<sup>3</sup> modules are web-based and easily accessible to employees on a 24/7 basis throughout the VA Talent Management System (TMS). In previous contracts Performax<sup>3</sup> customized the content of online learning modules with Altoona VAMC specific information. Performax<sup>3</sup> meets all VA requirements with regards to 508 compliance, SCORM, and ASCC compliance.

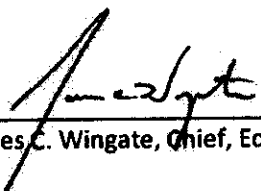
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Performax<sup>3</sup> is widely used throughout the VA and specifically in VISN 4. The Altoona VAMC has used Performax<sup>3</sup> for multiple years in order to meet the training needs of over 600 employees. It would not be cost effective to change vendors at this point in time given the customized information currently in use.

Additionally, Performax<sup>3</sup> has secured trusted site status with VHA allowing their online environment (Performax<sup>3</sup>) to communicate directly with the VA TMS. This creates a seamless process for end users as well as a complete training record needed for tracking and reporting requirements.

7. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable: Performax<sup>3</sup> is the only company that can continue to provide the specific, customized work that had been provided under contract in the past.
8. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:
9. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:
10. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition: NA
11. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition: NA
12. 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: Purchase of Talent Management Systems by VA that can be utilized as purchased, without the need to purchase additional services from additional firms, in order to make the system functional.
13. 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.

  
James C. Wingate, Chief, Education

2/3/12  
Date

14. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304

- 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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Michael S. Thaw

13 FEB 11

Date

James E VanZandt VA Medical Center

- b. **One Level above Contracting Officer:** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. \*This signature may be the VISN NCM if the Contracting Officer and Contracting Supervisor is the same individual.

for Michael S. Thaw  
Shawn E Smith  
Supervisory Contract Specialist  
James E VanZandt VA Medical Center

13 FEB 11

Date

- c. **NCM:** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Network Contract Manager  
VISN X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

