

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 (FFP) task order (TO) which will be issued under the Transformation Twenty One Total Technology Next Generation (T4NG) Program, Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract Number VA118-16-D-1026 with Pro-Sphere Tek, Inc., to provide system integration services to support the Digital Transformation Center (DTC).

 3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Innovation (VACI) is establishing a VA-wide DTC to improve VA's ability to support the Veteran through the use of rapid, incremental improvements in information technology (IT) capabilities, driving a genuine working partnership between the business and IT and utilizing Software as a Service (SaaS) technology as a transformation enabler. The proposed action is to provide system integration services to support all aspects of the VACI DTC. The current VA Salesforce environment supports roughly 15,000 end users. It includes several dozen Force.com platform applications and modules, an enterprise customer relationship management (CRM) implementation, and several contact center implementations operated via the Service Cloud. The Salesforce Application also supports some integration with external systems and data warehouses via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and Extract, Transform, Load (ETL) tools (e.g., CastIron, Informatica, etc.). To drive the success of transformation objectives, VA, in partnership with industry, must provide extensive strategic, technical, and program management direction to guide all transformation activities. That direction must be supported by advanced technology and data science expertise. Specifically, the Contractor shall assist in the establishment of Standards and Governance and provide technical and operational support to the DTC for the Salesforce platform and products including Force.com. This effort requires the Contractor to maintain the development, test, and production environments, to ensure that multiple development teams can successfully share the same environments and realize economies of scale and scope, enabling more rapid development, test and deployment of software for VA. The period of performance for this effort consists of a 12 month base period with one (1) optional task. Optional Task 1 for Vertical Prototypes may be exercised up to 26 times, for a period of 14 days per exercise, with up to three (3) exercises ongoing concurrently. 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)(4) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(D), entitled "It is necessary to place an order to satisfy a minimum guarantee".
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5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source is Pro-Sphere Tek, Inc., 1101 King Street Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314. Solicitation VA118-15-R-0558 was issued competitively, utilizing the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website on November 19, 2014. The solicitation closing date was December 19, 2014. Twenty-eight offerors were chosen for an award in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Basis for Award of the solicitation. Included in the solicitation was FAR clause 52.216-22, Indefinite Quantity which stated the minimum guarantee. This order is being issued to Pro-Sphere Tek to satisfy the minimum guarantee. Pro-Sphere Tek has been determined by the Government's technical experts to meet all aforementioned support services. The determination included a review of the selected awardee's technical capabilities.

The proposed FFP TO includes an optional task for Vertical prototypes. Specifically, there is a need to provide support to customers who wish to migrate their applications to the Force.com platform in order to demonstrate the technical feasibility of their specific application being hosted on this particular platform. In doing so, it is necessary to conduct interviews with customers to determine user needs and design features. Based on this information, the contractor would create screen mock-ups to demonstrate user interfaces, workflows, and dependencies on external systems. Once the prototype is developed, it will be necessary for the contractor to assist in developing initial project estimates, deadlines, and milestones of the proposed solution in order to provide the customer with a complete, holistic view of the look, feel, and resources necessary to migrate their application to the Salesforce platform. The Salesforce platform enables VA to reuse IT components when replatforming legacy applications to reduce cost and shorten development timelines. Vertical prototypes are an effective tool to determine which IT components can be reused and when new components are required. As VA begins to move to the Salesforce platform in order to leverage its ability to reuse development environments, it will be necessary to provide customers with the look, feel, and resources necessary to enact the migration.

A minimum guaranteed order under an IDIQ contract must be placed during the same fiscal year as the IDIQ is awarded to avoid a bona fide need violation (31 U.S.C. Section 1502). Once the IDIQ contract has been awarded, an obligation is created. Given the time remaining in the fiscal year, it is not possible to compete the orders with an expectation that each remaining T4NG contractor not meeting the minimum will be awarded one.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), this action will be synopsisized at award on the Federal Business Opportunities page and the justification will be made publicly available within 14 days after the award. In addition, this justification will be posted with the solicitation to notify all the T4NG vendors.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: There is no competition anticipated for this action as it is being issued to meet the mandatory minimum guaranteed value for this IDIQ

contract. It is expected that any future requirements will be awarded on a competitive basis.

8. Market Research: Market research was not conducted for this effort. The order is being issued to meet the mandatory minimum guaranteed value for this IDIQ contract.

9. Other Facts: Twenty-one of the T4NG contracts were awarded on March 7, 2016. An additional three (3) contracts were awarded on June 10, 2016. Due to protests, these contracts were not available for use until June 21, 2016. An additional four (4) contracts were awarded on August 02, 2016, for a total of 28 T4NG contracts. Nineteen awards have been made competitively, resulting in the minimum guarantee being met for seven (7) of the T4NG contractors.