

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, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: This 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 the procurement of hardware installation, internet services, systems maintenance and support services for the expansion of the Veteran's Guest Internet Access (VGIA) at the Richard L. Roudebush Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) already existing VGIA system. This proposed effort will be awarded under NASA SEWP V GWAC contract NNG15SC85B to Red River Computer Co. Inc. (Red River).
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to expand the existing VGIA, internet and system maintenance and support services at the Richard L. Roudebush VAMC. This requirement will include hardware installation, internet services, systems maintenance and support services to the expanded VGIA network as well as systems maintenance and support services for the existing VGIA network. When the initial procurement was done for the Richard L. Roudebush VAMC it only included requirements to provide access coverage to select inpatient public areas, visitor lounges outpatient waiting areas, main cafeteria, patient education center, inpatient care and short-stay bedside area. The expansion of the VGIA system under this effort will provide 100% guest internet access across the entire VAMC campus and will utilize existing network infrastructure, maintenance and Internet Service Provider (ISP) services. Internet access is essential in the transitioning of soldiers returning from combat in the current Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts. Injuries from these conflicts have resulted in a generation of Veterans requiring a new set of needs, including long periods of treatment and rehabilitation during which they are relatively isolated in the care environment. Internet access is seen as a vital part in dealing with those needs as it provides a way for these patients to remain in contact with family, friends, and comrades in their old units. It also provides a means for managing their finances, and researching employment and/or educational opportunities online. VA currently uses brand name Cisco hardware, maintenance and support services and AT&T ISP for the existing VGIA network currently installed and operating at the VAMC. The period of performance shall be one 12-month base period with two 12-month option periods. The total estimated value of this action is [REDACTED] including options.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting this exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B) entitled, "Only 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: The proposed source is Red River Computer Co, Inc. (Red River), 21 Water Street, Suite 500, Claremont, New Hampshire, 03743. The initial VGIA install at this VAMC was incomplete and only provided coverage to select inpatient public areas, visitor lounges outpatient waiting areas, main cafeteria, patient education center, inpatient care and short-stay bedside area. At this time 100% coverage for the entire VAMC is required and as Phase I of the VGIA network at the Richard L. Roudebush VAMC was designed, installed and is now being operated, maintained and supported by Red River the only source capable of completing the project is Red River. Red River already possesses the knowledge, technical capability and access to network infrastructure in order to expand and provide 100% VGIA coverage for the Richard L. Roudebush VAMC campus without incurring any significant onboarding delays or requiring a site visit to the facility to map out the rest of the proposed VGIA system. Additionally, procuring this requirement through Red River will avoid the range-overlap of access points (APs) from two different vendors which would require an ongoing negotiation and adjudication of AP power levels and channel settings that will lead to confusion between vendor accountability for those areas with overlapping signals. This would result in the Veteran user's inability to consistently stay connected to a single network which would degrade their ability to access and utilize VA online educational and/or health benefits, as well as stay connected to their families and communities. Additionally, if a vendor other than Red River were to complete this work, there would be inevitable duplication of Wide Area Network drop and network server and distribution hardware and cabling for those areas where coverage by a second vendor, other than Red River, would result in the unnecessary duplication of servers, APs, and other hardware to include cabling, wherever the two vendors are serving the same space. This would not result in VA essentially paying twice for coverage within the shared areas. Finally, there would be conflicting synchronization across wireless networks to include landing pages, bandwidth, response and performance and web filtering which will lead to an inconsistent and unreliable user experience which would defeat the purpose of the 100% VGIA expansion within this VAMC. Based on potential constraints in available space to support duplication in hardware, the difficulty and complexity in managing potential AP signal interference across two different vendors wherever APs from different networks share a common space, along with the need for VA to manage vendor accountability in a multiple vendor environment, and the potential disruption of user internet access when users travel from one part of the VAMC to another thereby having to access one network domain to another, Red River is the only source that can provide the necessary hardware installation, internet services, systems maintenance and support services for the expansion, as well as, the systems maintenance and support services for the existing VGIA network in order to meet the VAMC's requirements detailed above. Further, a Government representative contacted Red River in order to determine if a second vendor would be able to expand upon the current network design and infrastructure while providing operations and maintenance services that are compatible with current operations and maintenance services being provided by Red River. Red River provided a response stating they would not allow a second vendor to provide expansion hardware and operations and maintenance services upon a current system network in which Red River designed, installed, and is currently providing the aforementioned services.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), this action will be synopsisized and the justification will be made publicly available within 14 days of award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for the required VGIA expansion and operations and maintenance support services, the Government will continue to conduct market research to determine if there are any viable vendors who may provide and ensure the seamless integration of new and existing hardware, internet connection and operations and maintenance support services that would enable future actions to be competed.


8. Market Research: On July 25, 2016, the Government's technical experts conducted market research by posting a draft Performance Work Statement of the Government's needs in Request for Information (RFI) Number VA118-16-AP-2448 Request Number 37251 which was posted in the NASA SEWP V GWAC. The Government requested a brief technical approach that demonstrates their ability to provide seamless integration of new hardware and services to complete the expansion of the existing VGIA infrastructure. On August 18, 2016 only one response was received which was from Red River. A technical evaluator from the VAMC reviewed the capability statement and determined that Red River can meet the Government's current need.

Based on the above, there is no competition for this effort. Only Red River possesses the technical expertise and experience with the current VGIA system and can provide the expansion of the VGIA system, internet and system maintenance and support services required to complete and maintain 100% VGIA at the Richard L. Roudebush VAMC campus.

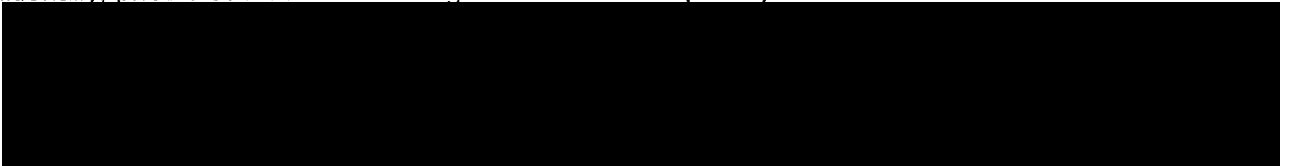
9. Other Facts: Option Periods are required to maintain the current and expanded VGIA as the solution is not expected to change or be replaced over the next three years.

Control Number: TAC-17-36967

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.



11. Fair and Reasonable Price Determination: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on comparison to the Independent Government Cost Estimate and price analysis. Prices under the NASA SEWP V contracts have already determined fair and reasonable by the awarding Contracting Officer. Further analysis, to include an analysis of proposed level of effort and mix of labor and bill of materials will be conducted and subsequent negotiations held as necessary. Additionally, price discounts will be sought.



12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed \$700,000, the certification below required by FAR 6.303-2(b)(12) serves as approval.

