

LIMITED SOURCES JUSTIFICATION

ORDER >\$150,000

FAR PART 8.405-6

Acquisition Plan Action ID: VA261-16-AP-6687

Purchase Request No.: 640-17-1-466-0002

This acquisition is conducted under the authority of the Multiple Award Schedule Program. The material or service listed in par. 3 below is sole source, therefore, consideration of the number of contractors required by FAR Subpart 8.4 – Federal Supply Schedules, is precluded for the reasons indicated below.

Restricted to the following source:

Manufacturer/Contractor: Bitscopic, Inc.

Manufacturer/Contractor POC & phone number: [REDACTED]

Mfgr/Contractor Address: 555 Veterans Blvd #117/Redwood City, CA 94063

☒ The requested material or service represents the minimum requirements of the Government.

(1) AGENCY AND CONTRACTING ACTIVITY:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Network Contracting Office 21
VA Palo Alto Health Care System
VISN 21

(2) NATURE AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF ACTION BEING APPROVED:

This is a new action to purchase an annual software license subscription that includes maintenance and support for a Biosurveillance Analytics System (Praedico) at the VA Palo Health Care System (VAPAHCS). The VAPAHCS is requesting a sole source delivery order with Bitscopic, Inc. against GSA Contract No. GS-35F-362CA for an annual subscription for Praedico to continue service until September 30, 2017.

(3) (a) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES REQUIRED TO MEET THE AGENCY'S NEED:

The VAPAHCS is requesting a commercially available software annual subscription for a biosurveillance analytics system, Praedico which provides the following:

- Single and multiple data sets (unlimited to VA enterprise).*
- Data search using filters, population and search terms.*
- Data visualization and analysis.*
- Unified workspace.*
- Customizable social media streaming for public health.*
- System notification.*

Praedico Biosurveillance is an application used for early detection, monitoring, and forecasting of outbreaks of infectious diseases. This software detects other relevant abnormalities as well, also known as `unknown unknowns` by performing queries and analysis across single or multiple sets of data from any source, including databases and platforms."

Previously, the VAPAHCS awarded a sole source delivery order (VA261-16-F-2655) to Bitscopic, Inc. for an annual software license for the Praedico Biosurveillance system. This order expired July 31,

2016. Subsequently, the VAPAHCS awarded a sole source delivery order (VA261-16-F-2350) to Bitscopic, Inc. for two additional monthly subscriptions. This order expires September 30, 2016.

The aforementioned orders were/are for the Praedico "Site Edition" which limits licenses to the users at the VAPAHCS. This request is for the Praedico "Limited Edition" which allows for unlimited licenses for all users across the entire VA enterprise. The "Limited Edition" is a health informatics and analytics system which includes public surveillance and works on Hadoop only and includes data extraction and a processing feature set with valid support throughout the period of performance.

The requested annual subscription of the Praedico "Limited Edition" system is available on Bitscopic, Inc. GSA Contract (GS-35F-362CA) under SIN 132-32 - Term Software License. The subscription includes all maintenance and support. Bitscopic's GSA Contract (GS-35F-362CA) expires June 11, 2020.

(b) ESTIMATED DOLLAR VALUE: [REDACTED]

(c) ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE: 10/01/2016 – 09/30/2017 (Period of Performance)

(4) IDENTIFICATION OF THE JUSTIFICATION RATIONALE (SEE FAR 8.405-6), AND IF APPLICABLE, A DEMONSTRATION OF THE PROPOSED CONTRACTOR'S UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SUPPLY OR SERVICE.

☒ Specific characteristics of the material or service that limit the availability to a sole source (unique features, function of the item, etc.). Describe in detail why only this suggested source can furnish the requirements to the exclusion of other sources:

Praedico is a component that allows VA epidemiologists to have near real-time access to key bio-surveillance data allowing healthcare providers the ability to make data driven subjective decisions. It provides tools for VA epidemiologists so that they can compare legacy bio-surveillance alerts from the ESSENCE (Former) system against the Praedico alerts that are based on modern algorithms offering greater sensitivity and specificity to bio-surveillance matters significant to VA epidemiologists. The inability to compare legacy bio-surveillance alerts would have a direct, negative impact on providing patient care. For example, the VA epidemiologist's inability to compare alerts could result in a lack of containment of Infectious Disease outbreaks based on the lack of situational medical awareness.

Additionally, public health emergencies such as the currently evolving Zika epidemic require improved patient care activities which VAPAHCS activities provide in the form of early detection and monitoring of the emergence and spread of this epidemic. It is impossible to predict from one month to the next what new epidemics will be emerging. Praedico is a flexible tool which allows VAPAHCS to respond immediately to patient needs.

The VAPAHCS has recently been informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that they must immediately track all Burkholderia cepacia infections occurring in patients throughout VA and work directly with clinical providers and pharmacists at all facilities to sequester contaminated drugs which may be involved in causing infections in patients. The requested Praedico product can directly assist this VAPAHCS with this endeavor.

Praedico has the ability to accept, process, and utilize critical data domains (IC9, IC10, telephone care, lab data, and pharmacy). In addition, Praedico's predictive analytics greatly enhances the specificity of the data, reducing the error rate in the existing surveillance system. Ongoing influenza epidemic, the new emerging measles outbreak, and other emerging infections in our facilities such as Zika, Chikungunya virus and Dengue fever, have the potential for effecting VA.

Additional unique features required:

- *Shall have the approved capability to integrate with VAPAHCS existing BDaP platform in order to utilize the required VA data for performing public health surveillance monitoring across VHA medical centers.*
- *Must provide functionality for VHA epidemiologists to perform lookback and outbreak investigations.*
- *Shall provide the functionality for modernized statistical algorithms, advance data visualization, and integration capabilities for diverse data systems.*

Praedico has been approved by VA IT Technical Reference Model (TRM) as an acceptable software system to run within VA. This is an approved tool to complete the original VA/DoD approved Joint Initiative Fund Project. No other existing TRM approved tool or system has been identified that would meet this requirement.

Based on the aforementioned, Bitscopic, Inc. has been identified as having the capability to provide the supplies and services requested at the level of quality required because the supplies and services are unique or highly specialized IAW FAR 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B).

(5) DESCRIBE WHY YOU BELIEVE THE ORDER REPRESENTS THE BEST VALUE CONSISTENT WITH FAR 8.4 TO AID THE CONTRACTING OFFICER IN MAKING THIS BEST VALUE DETERMINATION:

The fixed prices for supplies and services listed under GSA Contract No. GS-35F-362CA has been determined to be fair and reasonable by GSA. Therefore, ordering activities are not required to make a separate determination of fair and reasonable pricing. However, the VA will seek additional discounts when negotiating the sole source action. The prices listed under GSA Contract No. GS-35F-362CA represent the best value (as defined in FAR 2.101) and results in the lowest overall cost alternative (considering pricing, special features, administrative costs, etc.) to meet the Government's needs.

(6) DESCRIBE THE MARKET RESEARCH CONDUCTED AMONG SCHEDULE HOLDERS AND THE RESULTS OR A STATEMENT OF THE REASON MARKET RESEARCH WAS NOT CONDUCTED:

An RFQ (Sources Sought) (RFQ1114168) was issued via GSA eBuy on 07/26/2016 and closed on 08/05/2016 and a Presolicitation Notice (VA261-16-N-0855) was issued via FBO on 07/26/2016 and closed on 08/05/2016. The notices indicated that the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) intends to negotiate a sole source contract with Bitscopic, Inc. for a one (1) year order for their Praedico Healthcare Surveillance Analytics System, Limited Edition. However, any firm that believed it could provide a potential equal biosurveillance analytics system, were encouraged to submit written notification to the Contract Specialist with for consideration before the close of the Sources Sought Notice. Bitscopic, Inc. indicated that they could provide the requested product. No other sources expressed interest or provided a response to the sources sought notice.

As indicated above, no SDVOSB/VOSBs expressed interest in response to the notices above. Therefore, the "Rule of Two" contracting procedures cannot be applied to this requirement.

Based on the aforementioned, Bitscopic is the only source capable of meeting this requirement.

(7) ANY OTHER FACTS SUPPORTING THE JUSTIFICATION: N/A

(8) A STATEMENT OF THE ACTIONS, IF ANY, THE AGENCY MAY TAKE TO REMOVE OR OVERCOME ANY BARRIERS THAT LED TO THE RESTRICTED CONSIDERATION BEFORE ANY SUBSEQUENT ACQUISITION FOR THE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES IS MADE:

No follow-on competitive acquisition is planned at this time. However, VA will continue to monitor the commercial marketplace to determine if other sources are capable of providing a biosurveillance solution that can meet the minimum requirements of the VAPAHCS. Systems need to be validated and approved at a national and program level by the Government to determine if they actually have a working interface that is compatible with existing functioning systems. Once other sources enter the market place and are validated by the Government with nationally approved interfaces, future procurements may be competitive.



