

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Acquisition Plan Action ID: [REDACTED]

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs
Network Contracting Office 4
323 North Shore Drive, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
[REDACTED]
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** The proposed action is a firm-fixed-price contract for laundry/linen services at the Veteran Affairs Pittsburgh Health System (VAPHS). This procurement is in accordance with FAR 13.5 Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items and specifically FAR 13.501 Special Documentation Requirements, where acquisitions conducted under Simplified Acquisition Procedures are exempt from the requirements of FAR Part 6, but still require a justification using the format of FAR 6.303-2.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The VAPHS has a reoccurring requirement for laundry/linen services at its University Drive and Delafield Road facilities. The services include furnishing all linen items, labor, supervision, management, equipment, transportation vehicles, supplies, and materials necessary to provide complete laundry/linen services. The services require provision of an adequate, constant, and clean supply of linens to the VAPHS. The requirement scope includes, but is not limited to, sorting, weighing, washing, ironing, steam cleaning, tumbling (drying), folding, mending, marking and delivering said linens. The total estimated amount of this action [REDACTED] The anticipated period of performance is six months, November 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017.
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** FAR Subpart 13.5 used in accordance with 41 U.S.C. 1901.
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 proposed source is Clean Textile Systems, L.P., DBA Clean Care ("Clean Care"), 40 51st Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201. Clean Care is currently providing these services on VA244-16-P-2997. This contract was awarded on March 29, 2016, with a six month period of performance (04/01/2016 – 09/30/2016). This bridge was contract awarded on a sole source basis while the long-term contract (LTC) was being recompeted. The one month bilateral extension to this contract will expire on October 31, 2016.

Laundry services are essential to the VAPHS. In addition to the need for clean pajamas for veterans, clean linens for the patient rooms, and clean scrubs for the operating staff, the VA has strict infection control guidelines that must be adhered to regarding all linens and textiles provided in the healthcare environment. This protocol is vital to healthcare delivery capabilities and mission performance at the VAPHS. Current circumstances do not allow for training or "ramp-up" time. Since Clean Care is already familiar with acceptable disease control protocol, including tuberculosis and infection control, continuity of services will be maintained.

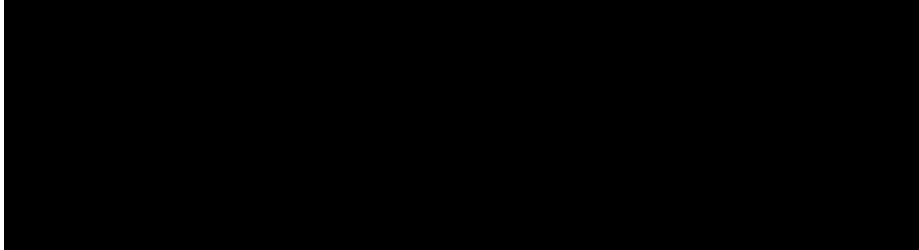
As stated above, VA244-16-P-2997's period of performance expires on October 31, 2016. The Network Contracting Officer 4 Services branch currently responsible for recompeting the LTC, is still actively working the requirement. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Since the current contract expires on October 31, 2016, there is not enough time for Services 1 to ensure fidelity to acquisition regulations and legal sufficiency of the work product.

Although other potential sources may exist which can meet the requirement of providing laundry services to the VAPHS, it is anticipated that any other source would require a minimum of six to eight weeks to obtain the necessary equipment and to train new staff to process over 6,000 pounds of laundry each day, along with meeting the requisite facility requirements. All work shall be performed under sanitary conditions as specified by the VA, the VAPHS, and The Joint Commission. The contractor facility would need to have a physical separation barrier keeping soiled linen from clean linen. The facility must also include a barrier wall (staph wall, infection control wall), pass-through equipment (pass-through washer machines/tunnel washer), and positive air pressure in the clean section relative to a negative air pressure in the soiled section. Clean Care is the only known vendor that currently possesses the requisite resources, including, but not limited to, the following: facilities, carts, processing equipment, and delivery trucks that would allow them to continue performance on November 1, 2016. Due to the ongoing needs of the veteran beneficiary population, there can be no break in or degradation of the laundry services. The services need to continue, without disruption, to ensure patient care and employee safety. A disruption in services could result in increased health risks and possible serious injuries to veteran and employees at the VAPHS.

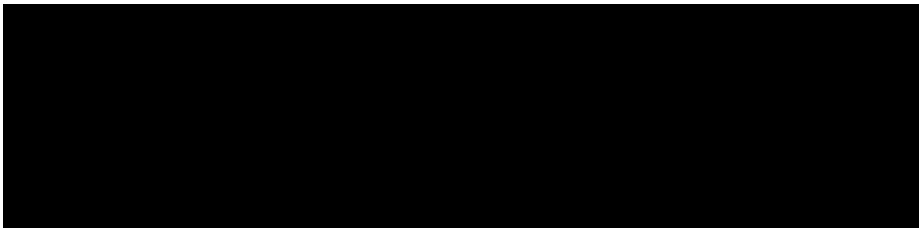
6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** The contracting officer posted a synopsis for this requirement to the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website on October 7, 2016 in accordance with (IAW) FAR 5.201. All potential sources will be considered for the competitive follow-on contract. The Government did not conduct additional market research for this requirement due to it being a bridge contract. The Government did conduct extensive market research for the competitive, follow-on effort.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The contracting officer will determine price reasonableness IAW FAR Part 13.106-3.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** As stated in paragraph #6 above, the Government did not conduct market research for this action. The Government did conduct extensive market research for the competitive, follow-on effort.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** See paragraph #5 above. A competitive, follow-on, contract will be awarded at the end of this bridge contract.
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** As stated in paragraph #6 above, the contracting officer posted a synopsis to the FBO website on October 7, 2016. As of the signing of this J&A, no sources have interest in writing.
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:** See paragraphs #8-10 above.

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.



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.



- b. **Director of Contracting/Designee (required over \$150K but not exceeding \$700K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

