



**SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES (SAP) PERFORMANCE
WORK STATEMENT (PWS)**

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Information & Technology
IT Asset Management Service

Sign Language Interpretive Services

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Sign Language Interpretive Services

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1.0 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) requires sign language interpreter services and video remote interpreter (VRI) services for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (HOH) employees on a Time and Materials basis. The need is for simultaneous interpretation from English to American Sign Language (ASL), and from ASL to Spoken English, whether on site or remotely. These services will allow Deaf/HoH employees to have full access to the information and resources needed to perform the functions of their jobs, and participate in meetings, trainings, and special events.

The Department of Veteran Affairs has a long history in supporting the work needs of its employees with various stages of hearing loss. While these actions were voluntary at the time they are now mandated by the Employees with Disabilities Act. The AITC has in the past utilized the services of sign language interpreters to support these same needs and it will continue so that employees who use American Sign Language can perform their work without any possible limits.

2.0 APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

In the performance of the tasks associated with this Performance Work Statement, the Contractor shall comply with the following:

1. 44 U.S.C. § 3541, "Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002"
2. Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 140-2, "Security Requirements For Cryptographic Modules"
3. FIPS Pub 201-2, "Personal Identity Verification of Federal Employees and Contractors," August 2013
4. 10 U.S.C. § 2224, "Defense Information Assurance Program"
5. 5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended, "The Privacy Act of 1974"
6. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d "Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
7. VA Directive 0710, "Personnel Suitability and Security Program," June 4, 2010, <http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/>
8. VA Handbook 0710, "Personnel Suitability and Security Program", May 2, 2016, <http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/>
9. VA Directive and Handbook 6102, "Internet/Intranet Services," July 15, 2008
10. 36 C.F.R. Part 1194 "Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards," July 1, 2003
11. OMB Circular A-130, "Managing Federal Information as a Strategic Resource," July 28, 2016
12. Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), August 7, 1998
13. Homeland Security Presidential Directive (12) (HSPD-12), August 27, 2004
14. VA Directive 6500, "Managing Information Security Risk: VA Information Security Program," September 20, 2012

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15. VA Handbook 6500, "Risk Management Framework for VA Information Systems – Tier 3: VA Information Security Program," March 10, 2015
16. VA Handbook 6500.1, "Electronic Media Sanitization," November 03, 2008
17. VA Handbook 6500.2, "Management of Breaches Involving Sensitive Personal Information (SPI)", October 28, 2015
18. VA Handbook 6500.3, "Assessment, Authorization, And Continuous Monitoring Of VA Information Systems," February 3, 2014
19. VA Handbook, 6500.5, "Incorporating Security and Privacy in System Development Lifecycle", March 22, 2010
20. VA Handbook 6500.6, "Contract Security," March 12, 2010
21. VA Handbook 6500.8, "Information System Contingency Planning", April 6, 2011
22. OI&T ProPath Process Methodology (reference process maps at <http://www.va.gov/PROPATH/Maps.asp> and templates at <http://www.va.gov/PROPATH/Templates.asp>)
23. One VA Technical Reference Model (TRM) (reference at <http://www.va.gov/trm/TRMHomePage.asp>)
24. National Institute Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publications
25. VA Directive 6508, Implementation of Privacy Threshold Analysis and VA Privacy Impact Assessment, October 15, 2014
26. VA Handbook 6508.1, "Procedures for Privacy Threshold Analysis and Privacy Impact Assessment," July 30, 2015
27. VA Directive 6300, Records and Information Management, February 26, 2009
28. VA Handbook, 6300.1, Records Management Procedures, March 24, 2010
29. OMB Memorandum, "Transition to IPv6", September 28, 2010
30. VA Directive 0735, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) Program, October 26, 2015
31. VA Handbook 0735, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) Program, March 24, 2014
32. OMB Memorandum M-06-18, Acquisition of Products and Services for Implementation of HSPD-12, June 30, 2006
33. OMB Memorandum 05-24, Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 – Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors, August 5, 2005
34. OMB memorandum M-11-11, "Continued Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 – Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors, February 3, 2011
35. OMB Memorandum, Guidance for Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Implementation, May 23, 2008
36. Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (FICAM) Roadmap and Implementation Guidance, December 2, 2011

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37. NIST SP 800-116, A Recommendation for the Use of Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Credentials in Physical Access Control Systems, November 20, 2008
38. OMB Memorandum M-07-16, Safeguarding Against and Responding to the Breach of Personally Identifiable Information, May 22, 2007
39. NIST SP 800-63-2, Electronic Authentication Guideline, August 2013
40. Draft NIST SP 800-157, Guidelines for Derived PIV Credentials, December 2014
41. NIST SP 800-164, Guidelines on Hardware-Rooted Security in Mobile Devices (Draft), October 2012
42. Draft National Institute of Standards and Technology Interagency Report (NISTIR) 7981 Mobile, PIV, and Authentication, March 2014
43. VA Memorandum, VAIQ #7100147, Continued Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12), April 29, 2011 (reference <https://www.voa.va.gov/documentlistpublic.aspx?NodeID=514>)
44. VA Memorandum, VAIQ # 7011145, VA Identity Management Policy, June 28, 2010 (reference <https://www.voa.va.gov/documentlistpublic.aspx?NodeID=514>)
45. IAM Identity Management Business Requirements Guidance document, May 2013, (reference <https://www.voa.va.gov/documentlistpublic.aspx?NodeID=514>)
46. Trusted Internet Connections (TIC) Reference Architecture Document, Version 2.0, Federal Interagency Technical Reference Architectures, Department of Homeland Security, October 1, 2013, https://www.fedramp.gov/files/2015/04/TIC_Ref_Arch_v2-0_2013.pdf
47. OMB Memorandum M-08-05, "Implementation of Trusted Internet Connections (TIC)", November 20, 2007
48. OMB Memorandum M-08-23, Securing the Federal Government's Domain Name System Infrastructure, August 22, 2008
49. VA Memorandum, VAIQ #7497987, Compliance – Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) – IT Electronic Equipment, August 11, 2014 (reference Document Libraries, EPEAT/Green Purchasing Section, <https://www.voa.va.gov/documentlistpublic.aspx?NodeID=552>)
50. Sections 524 and 525 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, (Public Law 110–140), December 19, 2007
51. Section 104 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, (Public Law 109–58), August 8, 2005
52. Executive Order 13693, "Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade", dated March 19, 2015
53. Executive Order 13221, "Energy-Efficient Standby Power Devices," August 2, 2001
54. VA Directive 0058, "VA Green Purchasing Program", July 19, 2013
55. VA Handbook 0058, "VA Green Purchasing Program", July 19, 2013

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56. Office of Information Security (OIS) VAIQ #7424808 Memorandum, "Remote Access", January 15, 2014,
<https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentListPublic.aspx?NodeId=28>
57. Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996, 40 U.S.C. §11101 and §11103
58. VA Memorandum, "Implementation of Federal Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Credentials for Federal and Contractor Access to VA IT Systems", (VAIQ# 7614373) July 9, 2015,
<https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentListPublic.aspx?NodeId=28>
59. VA Memorandum "Mandatory Use of PIV Multifactor Authentication to VA Information System" (VAIQ# 7613595), June 30, 2015,
<https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentListPublic.aspx?NodeId=28>
60. VA Memorandum "Mandatory Use of PIV Multifactor Authentication for Users with Elevated Privileges" (VAIQ# 7613597), June 30, 2015;
<https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentListPublic.aspx?NodeId=28>
61. "Veteran Focused Integration Process (VIP) Guide 1.0", December, 2015,
<https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DocumentID=4371>
62. "VIP Release Process Guide", Version 1.4, May 2016,
<https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DocumentID=4411>
63. "POLARIS User Guide", Version 1.2, February 2016,
<https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DocumentID=4412>
64. Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID)

3.0 PERFORMANCE DETAILS

3.1 PERFORMANCE PERIOD

The period of performance (PoP) shall be twelve months with two twelve month option periods. Any work at the AITC or site of assignment shall not take place on Federal holidays or weekends unless directed by the Contracting Officer (CO). If required, the CO may designate the Contractor to work during holidays and weekends.

3.2 PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

Tasks under this PWS shall be performed in VA facilities at the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) located at 1615 Woodward Street, Austin TX and other locations in the local Austin area as needed.

Work may be performed at remote locations with prior concurrence from the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

4.0 SPECIFIC TASKS AND DELIVERABLES

The Contractor shall perform the following:

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4.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall provide the COR with Monthly Progress Reports in electronic form in Microsoft Word and Project formats. The report shall include detailed instructions/explanations for each required data element, to ensure that data is accurate and consistent. These reports shall reflect data as of the last day of the preceding Month.

The Monthly Progress Reports shall cover all work completed during the reporting period and work planned for the subsequent reporting period. The report shall also identify any problems that arose and a description of how the problems were resolved. If problems have not been completely resolved, the Contractor shall provide an explanation including their plan and timeframe for resolving the issue.

Deliverable:

- A. Monthly Progress Report

4.2 INTERPRETER TASKS

The Contractor shall locate, coordinate, schedule, and confirm qualified and certified interpreters to ensure services for Deaf/HoH Government employees. On-site interpreters shall be local to the place of performance.

4.2.1 ON SITE INTERPRETER SERVICES

The Contractor shall provide a sign language interpreter(s), on site for meetings, special events and training within 24 hours of notification from the VA COR. Interpreter assignments shall be for one hour assignments. Longer assignments shall require additional interpreters to cover the time. Interpreters shall arrive in person 15 minutes prior to assignment time, at the site specified in each request. Interpreters shall be able to simultaneously interpret from English to American Sign Language (ASL), and from ASL to English. The interpreter shall dress and conduct themselves in a professional manner in accordance with PWS 4.3.

4.2.2 INTERPRETER QUALIFICATIONS

The Contractor shall provide interpreters to deaf/HOH clients and maintain a pool of interpreters available capable of meeting the requirements herein.

All Interpreters shall be certified thru either the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or the Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI), and qualified to provide the following services upon request:

1. Sign simultaneously and/or consecutively from oral spoken English into American Sign Language (ASL), Pidgin Sign

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English (PSE), Tactile Sign (Deaf-Blind), Oral, and voice from ASL/PSE to Oral English, as required

2. Sign simultaneously and/or consecutively using verbatim, conceptually accurate, or idiomatic methods, as required.
3. Sign on subject matter ranging from simple statement of facts to complex and specialized terminology.
4. Professionally voice in spoken English responses by client, whether it be in meetings, technical training classes or presentations.

4.2.2.1 ON-SITE INTERPRETING SERVICES

The Contractor shall support the following interpreting situations:

- A. Meetings, commemorative programs and award ceremonies
- B. Formal presentations
- C. Formal and informal inter-office division and directorate meetings
- D. Formal and informal inter-office training
- E. Teleconferences and Internet based collaborative remote meetings
- F. Workshops, projects, training courses, fast pace technology meetings or briefings
- G. Personnel reviews, evaluations, interviews, and any other personnel related meetings

4.3 CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Contractor's Interpreters shall uphold the seven tenets of the Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) which shall include:

- A. Adherence to standards of confidential communication
- B. Professional skills and knowledge required for the specific interpreting situation
- C. Interpreters will conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the specific interpreting situation
- D. Respect for consumers
- E. Respect for colleagues, interns and students of the profession
- F. Ethical business practices
- G. Professional development

4.4 DRESS CODE

While the AITC has a flexible dress code, the Contractor interpreters shall dress in business casual attire. This is a professional setting, so jeans with holes, flipflops,

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spanex/yoga leggings, and t-shirts are not considered acceptable. Nice jeans are ok only for staff meetings.

4.5 ASSIGNMENTS

- 4.5.1** The Contractor shall provide an online and email booking capability for designated start and end times. Interpreters shall be flexible for impromptu changes to accommodate other sign language interpreting requirements.
- 4.5.2** Clients may have an interpreter stay longer than the originally scheduled time slot only when the need is determined by the client and the contract interpreter's schedule permits extending the time.

4.6 LENGTH OF INTERPRETING

- 4.6.1** Two interpreters shall be required for assignments greater than 1 hour, unless a shadow interpreter is needed, as specified by client.
- 4.6.2** Interpreters shall stay the entire assignment time in order to accommodate any other interpreting requirements that occur within that time period for that client.

4.7 CONFIRMATIONS

- 4.7.1** The Contractor shall send confirmation of receipt of all requested assignments (e.g., same day, short notice, and two or more business days) the same day the request is submitted. The COR shall be automatically notified of all booking confirmations within 24 hours of reservations.
- 4.7.2** The Contractor shall provide interpreter confirmations with the interpreter's full name(s) as soon as confirmed or within at least 2 full business days prior to the scheduled assignment for advance requests to the COR.

4.8 INTERPRETER CHANGES

- 4.8.1** The Contractor shall notify the AITC COR of any interpreter changes after a confirmation is submitted.

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4.9 VIDEO REMOTE INTERPRETING SERVICES

The Contractor shall provide sign language interpreter(s), also called video remote interpreting. The Contractor shall provide video remote interpreting services on an as needed basis for meetings that occur at the AITC while the client requesting services is also located in the office. The Contractor shall simultaneously interpret from English to ASL and from ASL to English for the VRI. The Contractor shall provide Cisco compatible web based video phone services for each meeting and training event.

5.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 ENTERPRISE AND IT FRAMEWORK

The Contractor shall support the VA enterprise management framework. In association with the framework, the Contractor shall comply with OI&T Technical Reference Model (One-VA TRM). One-VA TRM is one component within the overall Enterprise Architecture (EA) that establishes a common vocabulary and structure for describing the information technology used to develop, operate, and maintain enterprise applications. One-VA TRM includes the Standards Profile and Product List that collectively serves as a VA technology roadmap. Architecture, Strategy, and Design (ASD) has overall responsibility for the One-VA TRM.

The Contractor shall ensure Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) product(s), software configuration and customization, and/or new software are PIV-enabled by accepting HSPD-12 PIV credentials using VA Enterprise Technical Architecture (ETA), http://www.ea.oit.va.gov/VA_EA/VAEA_TechnicalArchitecture.asp, and VA Identity and Access Management (IAM) approved enterprise design and integration patterns, http://www.techstrategies.oit.va.gov/enterprise_dp.asp. The Contractor shall ensure all Contractor delivered applications and systems are compliant with VA Identity Management Policy (VAIQ# 7011145), Continued Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (VAIQ#7100147), and VA IAM enterprise identity management requirements (IAM Identity Management Business Requirements Guidance document), located at <https://www.voa.va.gov/documentlistpublic.aspx?NodeID=514>. The Contractor shall ensure all Contractor delivered applications and systems provide user authentication services compliant with NIST Special Publication 800-63, VA Handbook 6500 Appendix F, "VA System Security Controls", and VA IAM enterprise requirements for direct, assertion based authentication, and/or trust based authentication, as determined by the design and integration patterns. Direct authentication at a minimum must include Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) based authentication supportive of Personal Identity Verification (PIV) and/or Common Access Card (CAC), as determined by the business need. Assertion based authentication must include a SAML implementation. Additional assertion implementations, besides the required SAML assertion, may be provided as long as they are compliant with NIST 800-63 guidelines. Trust based authentication must include authentication/account binding based on trusted HTTP headers. The Contractor solution shall conform to the specific Identity and Access Management PIV requirements are set forth in OMB Memoranda M-04-04

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(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy04/m04-04.pdf>), M-05-24 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2005/m05-24.pdf>), M-11-11 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-11.pdf>), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 201-2, and supporting NIST Special Publications.

The Contractor solution shall support the latest Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) based upon the directive issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on September 28, 2010 (<https://cio.gov/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/09/Transition-to-IPv6.pdf>) & (<http://www.cybertelecom.org/dns/ipv6usg.htm>). IPv6 technology, in accordance with the USGv6: A Technical Infrastructure for USGv6 Adoption (<http://www.nist.gov/itl/antd/usgv6.cfm>) and the NIST SP 800 series applicable compliance (<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/PubsSPs.html>), shall be included in all IT infrastructures, application designs, application development, operational systems and sub-systems, and their integration. All public/external facing servers and services (e.g. web, email, DNS, ISP services, etc.) shall support native IPv6 users, including all internal infrastructure and applications shall communicate using native IPv6 operations. Guidance and support of improved methodologies which ensure interoperability with legacy protocol and services, in addition to OMB/VA memoranda, can be found at <https://www.voa.va.gov/documentlistpublic.aspx?NodeID=282>.

The Contractor solution shall meet the requirements outlined in Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M08-05 mandating Trusted Internet Connections (TIC) (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-05.pdf>), M08-23 mandating Domain Name System Security (NSSEC) (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-23.pdf>), and shall comply with the Trusted Internet Connections (TIC) Reference Architecture Document, Version 2.0 https://www.fedramp.gov/files/2015/04/TIC_Ref_Arch_v2-0_2013.pdf.

The Contractor IT end user solution that is developed for use on standard VA computers shall be compatible with and be supported on the standard VA operating system, currently Windows 7 (64bit), Internet Explorer 11 and Microsoft Office 2010. In preparation for the future VA standard configuration update, end user solutions shall also be compatible with Office 2013 and Windows 8.1. However, Office 2013 and Windows 8.1 are not the VA standard yet and are currently not approved for use on the VA Network, but are in-process for future approval by OI&T. Upon the release approval of Office 2013 and Windows 8.1 individually as the VA standard, Office 2013 and Windows 8.1 will supersede Office 2010 and Windows 7 respectively. Applications delivered to the VA and intended to be deployed to Windows 7 workstations shall be delivered as a signed .msi package and updates shall be delivered in signed .msp file formats for easy deployment using System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) VA's current desktop application deployment tool. Signing of the software code shall be through a vendor provided certificate that is trusted by the VA using a code signing authority such as Verizon/Cybertrust or Symantec/VeriSign. The Contractor shall also

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ensure and certify that their solution functions as expected when used from a standard VA computer, with non-admin, standard user rights that have been configured using the United States Government Configuration Baseline (USGCB) specific to the particular client operating system being used.

The Contractor shall support VA efforts IAW the Veteran Focused Integration Process (VIP). VIP is a Lean-Agile framework that services the interest of Veterans through the efficient streamlining of activities that occur within the enterprise. The VIP Guide can be found at <https://www.voa.va.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DocumentID=4371>. The VIP framework creates an environment delivering more frequent releases through a deeper application of Agile practices. In parallel with a single integrated release process, VIP will increase cross-organizational and business stakeholder engagement, provide greater visibility into projects, increase Agile adoption and institute a predictive delivery cadence. VIP is now the single authoritative process that IT projects must follow to ensure development and delivery of IT products

The Contractor shall utilize ProPath, the OI&T-wide process management tool that assists in the execution of an IT project (including adherence to VIP standards). It is a one-stop shop providing critical links to the formal approved processes, artifacts, and templates to assist project teams in facilitating their VIP compliant work.

5.2 SECURITY AND PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS

5.2.1 CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

The position sensitivity and the level of background investigation commensurate with the required level of access is:

Low/NACI/Tier 1

Contractor Responsibilities:

- a. For a Low/Tier 1 Risk designation, with a period of performance requirement of 180 days or less, a Special Agreement Check (SAC) is required. A completed Security and Investigations Center (SIC) Fingerprint Request Form is required for fingerprinting. This should be submitted to the CO or COR after award has been made.
- b. Within 3 business days after award, the Contractor shall provide a roster of Contractor and Subcontractor employees to the COR to begin their background investigations in accordance with the ProPath template. The Contractor Staff Roster shall contain the Contractor's Full Name, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, individual background investigation level requirement of Low/NACI Tier 1 SAC. The Contractor shall submit full Social Security Numbers either within the Contractor Staff Roster or under separate cover to the COR. The Contractor Staff Roster shall be updated and provided to VA within 1 day of any changes in employee status, training certification completion status, Background Investigation level status, additions/removal of

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- employees, etc. throughout the Period of Performance. The Contractor Staff Roster shall remain a historical document indicating all past information and the Contractor shall indicate in the Comment field, employees no longer supporting this contract. The preferred method to send the Contractor Staff Roster or Social Security Number is by encrypted e-mail. If unable to send encrypted e-mail, other methods which comply with FIPS 140-2 are to encrypt the file, use a secure fax, or use a traceable mail service.
- c. The Contractor should coordinate the location of the nearest VA fingerprinting office through the COR. Only electronic fingerprints are authorized.
 - d. The Contractor shall be responsible for the actions of all personnel provided to work for VA under this contract. In the event that damages arise from work performed by Contractor provided personnel, under the auspices of this contract, the Contractor shall be responsible for all resources necessary to remedy the incident.
 - e. A Contractor may be granted unescorted access to VA facilities and/or access to VA Information Technology resources (network and/or protected data) with a favorably adjudicated Special Agreement Check (SAC), training delineated in VA Handbook 6500.6 (Appendix C, Section 9), and the signed "Contractor Rules of Behavior." The investigative history for Contractor personnel working under this contract must be maintained in the database of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).
 - f. The Contractor, when notified of an unfavorably adjudicated background investigation on a Contractor employee as determined by the Government, shall withdraw the employee from consideration in working under the contract.
 - g. Failure to comply with the Contractor personnel security investigative requirements may result in loss of physical and/or logical access to VA facilities and systems by Contractor and Subcontractor employees and/or termination of the contract for default.
 - h. Identity Credential Holders must follow all HSPD-12 policies and procedures as well as use and protect their assigned identity credentials in accordance with VA policies and procedures, displaying their badges at all times, and returning the identity credentials upon termination of their relationship with VA.

5.3 METHOD AND DISTRIBUTION OF DELIVERABLES

The Contractor shall deliver documentation in electronic format, unless otherwise directed in Section B of the solicitation/contract. Acceptable electronic media include: MS Word 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Excel 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS PowerPoint 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Project 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Access 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Visio 2000/2002/2003/2007/2010, AutoCAD 2002/2004/2007/2010, and Adobe Postscript Data Format (PDF).

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5.4 PERFORMANCE METRICS

The table below defines the Performance Standards and Acceptable Performance Levels for Objectives associated with this effort.

Performance Objective	Performance Standard	Acceptable Levels of Performance
A. Technical / Quality of Product or Service	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrates understanding of requirements2. Efficient and effective in meeting requirements3. Meets technical needs and mission requirements4. Provides quality services/products	Satisfactory or higher
B. Project Milestones and Schedule	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Established milestones and project dates are met2. Products completed, reviewed, delivered in accordance with the established schedule3. Notifies customer in advance of potential problems	Satisfactory or higher

The COR will utilize a Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (QASP) throughout the life of the contract to ensure that the Contractor is performing the services required by this PWS in an acceptable level of performance. The Government reserves the right to alter or change the surveillance methods in the QASP at its own discretion. A SAP Performance Based Service Assessment will be used by the COR in accordance with the QASP to assess Contractor performance.

5.5 FACILITY/RESOURCE PROVISIONS

The Government will provide office space, telephone service and system access when authorized contract staff work at a Government location as required in order to accomplish the Tasks associated with this PWS. All procedural guides, reference materials, and program documentation for the project and other Government applications will also be provided on an as-needed basis.

The Contractor shall request other Government documentation deemed pertinent to the work accomplishment directly from the Government officials with whom the Contractor has contact. The Contractor shall consider the COR as the final source for needed Government documentation when the Contractor fails to secure the documents by other means. The Contractor is expected to use common knowledge and resourcefulness in

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securing all other reference materials, standard industry publications, and related materials that are pertinent to the work.

VA may provide remote access to VA specific systems/network in accordance with VA Handbook 6500, which requires the use of a VA approved method to connect external equipment/systems to VA's network. Citrix Access Gateway (CAG) is the current and only VA approved method for remote access users when using or manipulating VA information for official VA Business. VA permits CAG remote access through approved Personally Owned Equipment (POE) and Other Equipment (OE) provided the equipment meets all applicable 6500 Handbook requirements for POE/OE. All of the security controls required for Government furnished equipment (GFE) must be utilized in approved POE or OE. The Contractor shall provide proof to the COR for review and approval that their POE or OE meets the VA Handbook 6500 requirements and VA Handbook 6500.6 Appendix C, herein incorporated as Addendum B, before use. CAG authorized users shall not be permitted to copy, print or save any VA information accessed via CAG at any time. VA prohibits remote access to VA's network from non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries. The exception to this are countries where VA has approved operations established (e.g. Philippines and South Korea). Exceptions are determined by the COR in coordination with the Information Security Officer (ISO) and Privacy Officer (PO).

This remote access may provide access to VA specific software such as Veterans Health Information System and Technology Architecture (VistA), ClearQuest, ProPath, Primavera, and Remedy, including appropriate seat management and user licenses, depending upon the level of access granted. The Contractor shall utilize government-provided software development and test accounts, document and requirements repositories, etc. as required for the development, storage, maintenance and delivery of products within the scope of this effort. The Contractor shall not transmit, store or otherwise maintain sensitive data or products in Contractor systems (or media) within the VA firewall IAW VA Handbook 6500.6 dated March 12, 2010. All VA sensitive information shall be protected at all times in accordance with VA Handbook 6500, local security field office System Security Plans (SSP's) and Authority to Operate (ATO)'s for all systems/LAN's accessed while performing the tasks detailed in this PWS. The Contractor shall ensure all work is performed in countries deemed not to pose a significant security risk. For detailed Security and Privacy Requirements (additional requirements of the contract consolidated into an addendum for easy reference) refer to **ADDENDUM A - ADDITIONAL VA REQUIREMENTS, CONSOLIDATED** and **ADDENDUM B - VA INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY/PRIVACY LANGUAGE**.

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ADDENDUM A – ADDITIONAL VA REQUIREMENTS, CONSOLIDATED

A1.0 Cyber and Information Security Requirements for VA IT Services

The Contractor shall ensure adequate LAN/Internet, data, information, and system security in accordance with VA standard operating procedures and standard PWS language, conditions, laws, and regulations. The Contractor's firewall and web server shall meet or exceed VA minimum requirements for security. All VA data shall be protected behind an approved firewall. Any security violations or attempted violations shall be reported to the VA Program Manager and VA Information Security Officer as soon as possible. The Contractor shall follow all applicable VA policies and procedures governing information security, especially those that pertain to certification and accreditation.

Contractor supplied equipment, PCs of all types, equipment with hard drives, etc. for contract services must meet all security requirements that apply to Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) and Government Owned Equipment (GOE). Security Requirements include: a) VA Approved Encryption Software must be installed on all laptops or mobile devices before placed into operation, b) Bluetooth equipped devices are prohibited within VA; Bluetooth must be permanently disabled or removed from the device, c) VA approved anti-virus and firewall software, d) Equipment must meet all VA sanitization requirements and procedures before disposal. The COR, CO, the PM, and the Information Security Officer (ISO) must be notified and verify all security requirements have been adhered to.

Each documented initiative under this contract incorporates VA Handbook 6500.6, "Contract Security," March 12, 2010 by reference as though fully set forth therein. The VA Handbook 6500.6, "Contract Security" shall also be included in every related agreement, contract or order. The VA Handbook 6500.6, Appendix C, is included in this document as Addendum B.

Training requirements: The Contractor shall complete all mandatory training courses on the current VA training site, the VA Talent Management System (TMS), and will be tracked therein. The TMS may be accessed at <https://www.tms.va.gov>. If you do not have a TMS profile, go to <https://www.tms.va.gov> and click on the "Create New User" link on the TMS to gain access.

Contractor employees shall complete a VA Systems Access Agreement if they are provided access privileges as an authorized user of the computer system of VA.

A2.0 VA Enterprise Architecture Compliance

The applications, supplies, and services furnished under this contract must comply with One-VA Enterprise Architecture (EA), available at <http://www.ea.oit.va.gov/index.asp> in force at the time of issuance of this contract, including the Program Management Plan and VA's rules, standards, and guidelines in the Technical Reference Model/Standards

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Profile (TRMSP). VA reserves the right to assess contract deliverables for EA compliance prior to acceptance.

A2.1. VA Internet and Intranet Standards

The Contractor shall adhere to and comply with VA Directive 6102 and VA Handbook 6102, Internet/Intranet Services, including applicable amendments and changes, if the Contractor's work includes managing, maintaining, establishing and presenting information on VA's Internet/Intranet Service Sites. This pertains, but is not limited to: creating announcements; collecting information; databases to be accessed, graphics and links to external sites.

Internet/Intranet Services Directive 6102 is posted at (copy and paste the following URL to browser): http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=409&FType=2

Internet/Intranet Services Handbook 6102 is posted at (copy and paste following URL to browser): http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=410&FType=2

A3.0 Notice of the Federal Accessibility Law Affecting All Electronic and Information Technology Procurements (Section 508)

On August 7, 1998, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was amended to require that when Federal departments or agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use Electronic and Information Technology, that they shall ensure it allows Federal employees with disabilities to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access to and use of information and data by other Federal employees. Section 508 required the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) to publish standards setting forth a definition of electronic and information technology and the technical and functional criteria for such technology to comply with Section 508. These standards have been developed and published with an effective date of December 21, 2000. Federal departments and agencies shall develop all Electronic and Information Technology requirements to comply with the standards found in 36 CFR 1194.

A3.1. Section 508 – Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Standards

The Section 508 standards established by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) are incorporated into, and made part of all VA orders, solicitations and purchase orders developed to procure Electronic and Information Technology (EIT). These standards are found in their entirety at: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards/section-508-standards> and

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<http://www.section508.gov/content/learn/standards>. A printed copy of the standards will be supplied upon request. The Contractor shall comply with the technical standards as marked:

- § 1194.21 Software applications and operating systems
- § 1194.22 Web-based intranet and internet information and applications
- § 1194.23 Telecommunications products
- § 1194.24 Video and multimedia products
- § 1194.25 Self contained, closed products
- § 1194.26 Desktop and portable computers
- § 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria
- § 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support

A3.2. Equivalent Facilitation

Alternatively, offerors may propose products and services that provide equivalent facilitation, pursuant to Section 508, subpart A, §1194.5. Such offerors will be considered to have provided equivalent facilitation when the proposed deliverables result in substantially equivalent or greater access to and use of information for those with disabilities.

A3.3. Compatibility with Assistive Technology

The Section 508 standards do not require the installation of specific accessibility-related software or the attachment of an assistive technology device. Section 508 requires that the EIT be compatible with such software and devices so that EIT can be accessible to and usable by individuals using assistive technology, including but not limited to screen readers, screen magnifiers, and speech recognition software.

A3.4. Acceptance and Acceptance Testing

Deliverables resulting from this solicitation will be accepted based in part on satisfaction of the identified Section 508 standards' requirements for accessibility and must include final test results demonstrating Section 508 compliance.

Deliverables should meet applicable accessibility requirements and should not adversely affect accessibility features of existing EIT technologies. The Government reserves the right to independently test for Section 508 Compliance before delivery. The Contractor shall be able to demonstrate Section 508 Compliance upon delivery.

Automated test tools and manual techniques are used in the VA Section 508 compliance assessment. Additional information concerning tools and resources can be found at <http://www.section508.va.gov/section508/Resources.asp>.

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A4.0 Physical Security & Safety Requirements:

The Contractor and their personnel shall follow all VA policies, standard operating procedures, applicable laws and regulations while on VA property. Violations of VA regulations and policies may result in citation and disciplinary measures for persons violating the law.

1. The Contractor and their personnel shall wear visible identification at all times while they are on the premises.
2. VA does not provide parking spaces at the work site; the Contractor must obtain parking at the work site if needed. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to park in the appropriate designated parking areas. VA will not invalidate or make reimbursement for parking violations of the Contractor under any conditions.
3. Smoking is prohibited inside/outside any building other than the designated smoking areas.
4. Possession of weapons is prohibited.
5. The Contractor shall obtain all necessary licenses and/or permits required to perform the work, with the exception of software licenses that need to be procured from a Contractor or vendor in accordance with the requirements document. The Contractor shall take all reasonable precautions necessary to protect persons and property from injury or damage during the performance of this contract.

A5.0 Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure

The Contractor shall follow all VA rules and regulations regarding information security to prevent disclosure of sensitive information to unauthorized individuals or organizations.

The Contractor may have access to Protected Health Information (PHI) and Electronic Protected Health Information (EPHI) that is subject to protection under the regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, as mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA); 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E, the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (“Privacy Rule”); and 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and C, the Security Standard (“Security Rule”). Pursuant to the Privacy and Security Rules, the Contractor must agree in writing to certain mandatory provisions regarding the use and disclosure of PHI and EPHI.

1. The Contractor will have access to some privileged and confidential materials of VA. These printed and electronic documents are for internal use only, are not to be copied or released without permission, and remain the sole property of VA. Some of these materials are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 (revised by PL 93-5791) and Title 38. Unauthorized disclosure of Privacy Act or Title 38 covered materials is a criminal offense.
2. The VA CO will be the sole authorized official to release in writing, any data, draft deliverables, final deliverables, or any other written or printed materials pertaining to this contract. The Contractor shall release no information. Any

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request for information relating to this contract presented to the Contractor shall be submitted to the VA CO for response.

3. Contractor personnel recognize that in the performance of this effort, Contractor personnel may receive or have access to sensitive information, including information provided on a proprietary basis by carriers, equipment manufacturers and other private or public entities. Contractor personnel agree to safeguard such information and use the information exclusively in the performance of this contract. Contractor shall follow all VA rules and regulations regarding information security to prevent disclosure of sensitive information to unauthorized individuals or organizations as enumerated in this section and elsewhere in this Contract and its subparts and appendices.
4. Contractor shall limit access to the minimum number of personnel necessary for contract performance for all information considered sensitive or proprietary in nature. If the Contractor is uncertain of the sensitivity of any information obtained during the performance this contract, the Contractor has a responsibility to ask the VA CO.
5. Contractor shall train all of their employees involved in the performance of this contract on their roles and responsibilities for proper handling and nondisclosure of sensitive VA or proprietary information. Contractor personnel shall not engage in any other action, venture or employment wherein sensitive information shall be used for the profit of any party other than those furnishing the information. The sensitive information transferred, generated, transmitted, or stored herein is for VA benefit and ownership alone.
6. Contractor shall maintain physical security at all facilities housing the activities performed under this contract, including any Contractor facilities according to VA-approved guidelines and directives. The Contractor shall ensure that security procedures are defined and enforced to ensure all personnel who are provided access to patient data must comply with published procedures to protect the privacy and confidentiality of such information as required by VA.
7. Contractor must adhere to the following:
 - a. The use of "thumb drives" or any other medium for transport of information is expressly prohibited.
 - b. Controlled access to system and security software and documentation.
 - c. Recording, monitoring, and control of passwords and privileges.
 - d. All terminated personnel are denied physical and electronic access to all data, program listings, data processing equipment and systems.
 - e. VA, as well as any Contractor (or Subcontractor) systems used to support development, provide the capability to cancel immediately all access privileges and authorizations upon employee termination.
 - f. Contractor PM and VA PM are informed within twenty-four (24) hours of any employee termination.

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- g. Acquisition sensitive information shall be marked "Acquisition Sensitive" and shall be handled as "For Official Use Only (FOUO)".
 - h. Contractor does not require access to classified data.
8. Regulatory standard of conduct governs all personnel directly and indirectly involved in procurements. All personnel engaged in procurement and related activities shall conduct business in a manner above reproach and, except as authorized by statute or regulation, with complete impartiality and with preferential treatment for none. The general rule is to strictly avoid any conflict of interest or even the appearance of a conflict of interest in VA/Contractor relationships.
9. VA Form 0752 shall be completed by all Contractor employees working on this contract, and shall be provided to the CO before any work is performed. In the case that Contractor personnel are replaced in the future, their replacements shall complete VA Form 0752 prior to beginning work.

A6.0 Information Technology Using Energy-Efficient Products

The Contractor shall comply with Sections 524 and Sections 525 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; Section 104 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; Executive Order 13693, "Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade", dated March 19, 2015; Executive Order 13221, "Energy-Efficient Standby Power Devices," dated August 2, 2001; and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to provide ENERGY STAR®, Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) designated, low standby power, and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) registered products in providing information technology products and/or services.

The Contractor shall ensure that information technology products are procured and/or services are performed with products that meet and/or exceed ENERGY STAR, FEMP designated, low standby power, and EPEAT guidelines. The Contractor shall provide/use products that earn the ENERGY STAR label and meet the ENERGY STAR specifications for energy efficiency. Specifically, the Contractor shall:

1. Provide/use ENERGY STAR products, as specified at www.energystar.gov/products (contains complete product specifications and updated lists of qualifying products).
2. Provide/use the purchasing specifications listed for FEMP designated products at https://www4.eere.energy.gov/femp/requirements/laws_and_requirements/energy_star_and_femp_designated_products_procurement_requirements. The Contractor shall use the low standby power products specified at <http://energy.gov/eere/femp/low-standby-power-products>.
3. Provide/use EPEAT registered products as specified at www.epeat.net. At a minimum, the Contractor shall acquire EPEAT® Bronze registered products. EPEAT registered products are required to meet the technical specifications of

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ENERGY STAR, but are not automatically on the ENERGY STAR qualified product lists. The Contractor shall ensure that applicable products are on both the EPEAT Registry and ENERGY STAR Qualified Product Lists.

4. The Contractor shall use these products to the maximum extent possible without jeopardizing the intended end use or detracting from the overall quality delivered to the end user.

The following is a list of information technology products for which ENERGY STAR, FEMP designated, low standby power, and EPEAT registered products are available:

1. Computer Desktops, Laptops, Notebooks, Displays, Monitors, Integrated Desktop Computers, Workstation Desktops, Thin Clients, Disk Drives
2. Imaging Equipment (Printers Copiers, Multi-Function Devices, Scanners, Fax Machines, Digital Duplicators, Mailing Machines)
3. Televisions, Multimedia Projectors

This list is continually evolving, and as a result is not all-inclusive.

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**ADDENDUM B – VA INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM
SECURITY/PRIVACY LANGUAGE**

APPLICABLE PARAGRAPHS TAILORED FROM: *THE VA INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY/PRIVACY LANGUAGE, VA HANDBOOK 6500.6, APPENDIX C, MARCH 12, 2010*

B1. GENERAL

Contractors, Contractor personnel, Subcontractors, and Subcontractor personnel shall be subject to the same Federal laws, regulations, standards, and VA Directives and Handbooks as VA and VA personnel regarding information and information system security.

B2. ACCESS TO VA INFORMATION AND VA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

N/A

B3. VA INFORMATION CUSTODIAL LANGUAGE

N/A

B4. INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

N/A

B5. INFORMATION SYSTEM HOSTING, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, OR USE

N/A

B6. SECURITY CONTROLS COMPLIANCE TESTING

N/A

B7. TRAINING

N/A