

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: This proposed action is for a firm-fixed price task order to be issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) for brand name Oracle Solaris (OS) hardware and associated maintenance.
  
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA, Office of Information and Technology, Service Delivery and Engineering (SDE), Enterprise Operations (EO) requires six (6) brand name Oracle SPARC M7-8 servers, associated hardware components, Oracle Solaris operating system (OS) that comes with the servers, and the corresponding hardware maintenance and support, to include patches, upgrades, and updates (to include major releases, point releases, service releases and security releases of applicable firmware). This Oracle hardware and corresponding maintenance is required for the hardware refresh of the current brand name Oracle hardware components operating in EO Austin Information Technology Center, Philadelphia Information Technology Center and Hines Information Technology Center datacenter infrastructure that have reached end of life (EOL). Each of the six (6) servers shall be factory configured with one static Physical Domain; consisting of four SPARC M7 32-core 4.13 GHz processors and 4096 GB of DDR4 Memory. Each server shall also consist of four Dual 10GbE Copper PCIe, two Quad Port Gbe PCIe and four Dual 8 Gb Fibre Channel PCIe. Delivery of the hardware shall be completed within 30 days of award. The period of performance for the maintenance support shall be 12 months from date of award.
  
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C 4106(c)(2) as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Section 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: Based on market research, as described in section 8 of this Justification, it was determined that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers of the required brand name Oracle SPARC M7-8 servers, associated hardware components, Oracle Solaris operating system and the corresponding hardware maintenance and support. The existing Solaris Virtual System (SVS) is comprised of Oracle SPARC hardware. The OS and hardware are interdependent and an integral part of the SVS environment. Within the VA owned SVS, a subset of components have reached EOL and need to be replaced with a compatible hardware stack. Only Oracle SPARC hardware will operate within the existing SVS environment and provide hardware and OS compatibility to allow EO to

perform a hardware technical refresh that is transparent to the 10 systems currently hosted on 79 virtual Solaris servers within VA. Any other operating system and hardware brand would be incompatible with the existing Oracle Solaris operating system and hardware already in the SVS environment. The current EO infrastructure supporting the 10 systems is based on existing Oracle hardware, and VA requires brand name replacement hardware and support compatible with the existing infrastructure protocols and functionality for continued operational availability. Specifically, due to the proprietary constraints of the Oracle infrastructure in place, no other brand name hardware can meet VA's form, fit and function requirements and communicate with the existing Oracle items. Therefore, only Oracle or an authorized reseller which has access to the proprietary source code and hardware which is compatible with the existing infrastructure, have the ability to meet all of VA's interoperability and compatibility requirements. If another manufacturer's hardware were introduced into the Oracle infrastructure, the system would malfunction because VA would not be able to integrate the new hardware into the existing environment and migrate the current applications onto the technical refresh components. Eventually this malfunction would result in system failure hindering VA's ability to maintain its core information technology applications that directly support Veterans healthcare and benefits systems.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this Justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers for the required brand name Oracle Solaris hardware, operating system and associated hardware maintenance and support that are current NASA SEWP V GWAC holders. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D). Notice of award for this action will be synopsisized and this justification will be made publicly available on the Federal Business Opportunities Page within 14 days of award. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A), this Justification will be posted with the request for quotation on the NASA SEWP V GWAC website to notify interested parties.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the marketplace that would enable future actions to be fully competed.

8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research in September 2016 to ascertain if any other sources could provide the required brand name Oracle servers, hardware component, OS and the corresponding maintenance and support. Specifically the Government's technical experts researched Dell and Hewlett Packard to determine if they could support and maintain Oracle equipment or provide compatible servers and support. Although Dell and Hewlett Packard offer similar hardware, maintenance and support, they determined that only Oracle or an authorized reseller are capable of providing the hardware, hardware maintenance and technical support that meet the Government's interoperability and compatibility requirements due to the proprietary nature of the source code required to integrate with the existing Oracle SVS infrastructure and complete the required patches upgrades and updates.

Additionally, market research was conducted in October 2016 utilizing the NASA SEWP V GWAC Provider Lookup Tool to determine whether the required brand name Oracle hardware, maintenance and support was available from current GWAC holders. The results of the search found numerous GWAC holders that are Oracle resellers that could possibly meet VA's needs, including 25 Service-Disabled Veteran- Owned Small Business Value Added Resellers. Therefore, limited competition is anticipated.

9. Other Facts: None