

JUSTIFICATION FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
1701 Directors Blvd
Austin, TX 78744
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a sole source modification to task order VA11816F10110001 to The Informatics Applications Group (TIAG), which was issued under their Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation (T4NG) Contract VA118-16-D-1011.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA has a requirement to continue to utilize the agile development process to design and implement system features to support an existing survey and analytics platform measuring MyVA Impression across VA and to design and implement system features to support collaborative tracking of initiatives of interest to MyVA. The modification will extend the period of performance from April 7, 2017 to June 30, 2017, and increase the number of sprints from 13 to 19. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) paragraph 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: TIAG has been under contract with VA to provide these services since September 2016. The original order included 13 two-week sprints, in which designs are delivered to VA regularly, and adjustments are made based on feedback gleaned from these sprints. New requirements are constantly fed into the product backlog as a result of this dialogue, resulting in reprioritization of system features at the beginning of each sprint in a 'Just-in-time' fashion. VA requires continued support for the MyVA dashboards, and is in the process of competing a new acquisition for similar agile services. However, an additional 6 sprints are required immediately to continue to improve the quality of the MyVA dashboards in the wake of the appointment of the new SecVA, as it is anticipated the new leadership will require changes to the dashboards. The dashboard is used several times per week to directly brief the SecVA and DepSec VA. The current contract expires on April 7, 2017, and new competitive acquisition, which will be a longer term solution, will not be awarded in time. Without the extended support of the current contractor, the current dashboards may not meet the requirements, direction, and guidance of the new administration. If it is determined that the current dashboards (as-is)

require enhancements to effectively manage the FY17 initiatives, there are no alternative dashboard process that could replace the existing dashboards without extensive resources, and may reduce the level of insight into the performance of the FY17 Breakthrough and Management Initiatives and hamper data available to senior leaders to make effective decisions. The current dashboard support staff understands the existing framework and how the dashboards are leveraged, will provide quicker deployment of changes, and have an existing relationship with the users of the dashboard who are responsible for maintaining and updating the dashboard on regular basis. Once a new contract is awarded, it will take the new contractor up to 30-45 days to fully begin services. Any lapse in service will have a negative impact on MyVA's mission, as weekly briefings to the new SecVA may be affected. Per the current task order, TIAG is required to provide transition support to the new contractor. Based on the above, only TIAG can provide seamless support during the transition to the new administration.

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 who could meet the Government's requirements. However, a follow-on task order will be awarded a competitive basis. In accordance with FAR 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 (FBO).

7. Actions to Increase Competition: No barriers to future competition are anticipated. Therefore, any future requirements for a MyVA agile services will be competed. A long-term contract for continued support is planned to be awarded on a competitive basis by June 30, 2017.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted in February and March 2017 on T4NG and a service-disabled Veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) set-aside is projected. The new contract is estimated to be completed in May 2017 and will not be in place prior to expiration of the existing order. Therefore, a bridge contract is required for TIAG to sustain the current performance and provide transition support.

9. Other Facts: N/A

