

LIMITED-SOURCES JUSTIFICATION

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: The proposed sole source action is for a firm-fixed price (FFP) effort for brand name Computrition food service licenses and maintenance support. The proposed action for the renewal of 94 Computrition Nutrition and Food Services (NFS) Commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) software licenses (and related maintenance support) currently in use in Veterans Health Administration Veterans Integrated Service Network 8 (VISN 8). A firm-fixed price order will be issued against General Services Administration (GSA) Information Technology 70 Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contract number GS-35F-0037M in order to obtain the required software licenses and maintenance support.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to acquire license renewals and related maintenance support for 94 Computrition NFS licenses and maintenance support currently in use at VISN 8. The current licenses and support for same expires on March 26, 2017. The proposed period of performance is March 26, 2017 through March 25, 2018, with two 12-month option periods for renewal of Computrition NFS licenses and maintenance support.

Computrition's software allows VISN 8 staff to easily manage multiple food service functions within current resources as well as allows for the creation of customized programs for specific patient populations. The Computrition licenses provide an extension of the existing food service software functionality and the ability to open multiple screens simultaneously within VISN 8 systems.

The maintenance support provided by Computrition includes Oracle Database Administrator (DBA) Remote Access which currently utilizes a map based interface and also provides for existing Master Virtual Private network account configuration for remote access. In addition, the Computrition NFS licenses provide a fully integrated Medical Food Management module which functions as a "back house" automated food service management system and be comprised of at least sub-modules such as ingredients, recipes, and menus.

There are seven applicable sites within VISN 8 which will utilize Computrition's software. Each site will have the ability to customize this solution to their site-specific needs. They will also receive all future updates through the use of Computrition's software.

4. Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C.3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B), "Only one source is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source is Computrition Inc., 8521 Fallbrook Avenue, Suite 100, West Hills, California. Computrition is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of this brand name software and maintenance support currently in use at VISN8. Computrition, Inc.'s software is proprietary in nature, and provides VISN 8 with food service operations management, nutritional care management/automated diet office and Point of Sale functionality. This functionality is developed, tested, owned and maintained exclusively by Computrition, Inc.. Computrition does not authorize any other entity to sell, support, maintain, or train others in the use of this software. The software modules associated with this software package cannot be licensed by any other company given its proprietary nature. Computrition Inc.'s software package is the only software currently available that meets the VISN 8 interface requirements of its existing GetWell Network (which grants patients the ability to select their meals directly from this patient-centric health management solution).

VISN 8 requires the continued use of its existing Computrition software licenses to ensure continued program operational availability. VISN8 requires a software solution that will provide VISN 8 NFS staff the ability to connect to VISN 8's GetWell Network via a gateway. The gateway is a web service that interfaces between the Computrition software solution and the GetWell Network in order to request data from the Computrition software database. The GetWell Network sends a request to the software in order to identify the patient using the Medical Record Number (MRN). The Computrition software will then obtain the MRN upon admission from Veterans Integrated System Technology Architecture (VistA)/ Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) Electronic Health Records using an existing HL-7 interface. The software HL-7 interface engine provides continuous data transmission from CPRS for a list of data elements. Submitted data requests will first match the patient profile including dietary requirements and restrictions; they will then process the request for the patient's menu. The Computrition software then sends the menu information to the GetWell Network. Both systems reside at VISN 8 facilities and will use the MRN number to confirm the patient behind the scenes before displaying the menu on the TV screen.

Computrition Inc.'s software is the only currently available software package that is fully compatible with the existing VISN 8 architecture and VistA. Use of a software solution other than Computrition's software package will require re-development of additional interfaces within the existing VISN 8 architecture in order to allow for communications between the existing CPRS and GetWell Network. Further, due to the proprietary nature of Computrition's software, any new solution would have to replace the existing instances of all Computrition's licenses used throughout VISN8. No other source's

solution will be able to be utilized with the existing Computrition software already in use, given the existing software's proprietary platform. The use of any other source's software solution would require an extensive redevelopment effort for it to function on VISN 8's architecture in order to provide the functionality currently provided by Computrition's software. Even with such extensive development, full integration with VISN 8's architecture would still not be guaranteed. Further, any new interfaces created as a result of using a solution other than Computrition's software would have to be developed, configured, and tested. Testing would include verifying communication with the GetWell Network as well as communication with VistA and CPRS. Developing an entirely new software solution to replace the existing Computrition software current in use at VISN8 poses significant risk of applicability, compatibility, and interoperability issues. Further, there would be extensive duplication costs involved with the development of an entirely new NFS solution which are not expected to be recovered through competition.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that were able to meet the Government's requirements. There is no anticipated competition for this acquisition due to the proprietary nature of Computrition's software. In accordance with FAR 5.303(a)(2)(i) the award notice for this action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website along with a copy of this justification 14 days after award. A copy of this justification will be posted with the solicitation on the GSA E-Buy website. Any responses received will be considered and evaluated as appropriate.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will continue to perform additional market research to ascertain if there are changes in the marketplace, such as Computrition making its software available to the open source community or the development of a new software licenses capable of integrating with VISN 8 systems in manner to allow it to meet VISN8 NFS software requirements.

8. Market Research: Market research efforts were conducted through a Request for Information (RFI) in August and September 2016, review of website information, email and interviews with several Contractors with similar software to determine if competition was viable for this action. The RFI was posted on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website and GSA website to ascertain whether any Contractors other than Computrition were capable to provide the required software licenses and related support. Responses via FBO posting were received from Vision Software Technology, SCIGON Solutions and Wasatech Infotech. A response via GSA posting was received from CBORD.

The Government's subject matter expert/technical expert reviewed the responses and determined no source other than Computrition was capable of meeting the VA's requirements based on the following evaluations of the similar products. CBORD does

not have the appropriate nutrition and food service software that is needed in the management of multiple food service functions within current resources and customized programs for specific patient populations. CBORD and Vision Software do not have a VA-approved GetWell Network interface. Both CBORD and Vision Software stated it would take each of them a period of one to two years per site to activate a GetWell Network interface. Minburn Technology Group responded as a partner with CBORD, but they do not have their own HL-7 connection. SCIGON solutions, a service-disabled Veteran-owned small business expressed an interest; offering to partner with Vision Software, but Vision Software does not have a VA-approved GetWell Network interface. Wasatech Infotech responded to develop software; however, they could not provide a commercial-off-the-shelf software solution.

Market research resulted in an assessment that there is no source capable of interfacing with the GetWell Network, HL-7 interface and the capacity to meet all the VA-approved requirements to begin using the software as soon as possible in FY17 to meet VISN 8 requirements. Past experience within VISN 8 and other facilities utilizing similar food service management software reflects a three to five year development period would be necessary in order to provide a feasible solution that meets VISN 8's requirements.

Finally, in a letter dated January 11, 2017, Computrition confirmed that they offer a proprietary software package that includes food service operation management, nutritional care management/ automated diet office and Point of Sale functionality. The functionality is wholly developed, tested, owned, and maintained by Computrition, Inc. Computrition does not authorize any other entity to sell, support or train others in the use of its software.

9. Other Facts: None.