



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Service Area Organization (SAO) West,
Network Contracting Office (NCO) 19
Rocky Mountain Acquisition Center (RMAC)
4100 East Mississippi Avenue, Suite 900
Glendale, CO 80246**

**Justification and Approval (J&A)
For
Other Than Full and Open Competition
(Sole Source)
Project: #666-311-86 Short Stay Geri-psych Addition**

1. Contracting Activity:

Department of Veteran Affairs
NCO 19 Colorado
4100 East Mississippi Avenue, Suite 900
Glendale, CO 80246

Requiring Activity: Sheridan Wyoming Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SVAMC)

2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:

This is the application of a brand name justification of particular products and / or items by specific manufacturers which does not provide for full and open competition. These product and/or items are vital to this project success, therefore these Sole Source procurement products and/or items are as follows: Geopier Foundation Company (Geopier) Rammed Aggregate Pier (RAP). This product is included in a new fixed price Total Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business set-aside competitive procurement action to be awarded for the Short Stay Geri-psych Addition project.

3. Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:

The Sheridan VAMC Short Stay Geri-psych Addition project will include the installation of: Rammed Aggregate Piers. Ground Improvement Engineering will provide a Geopier Foundation Company Inc. approved RAP design to be installed by a Geopier Foundation Company approved and licensed installer and per specification 31 66 00 Rammed Aggregate Pier.

PRODUCT / ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
Geopier	1		
Total	1		

Site History and Need

The Sheridan VAMC facility is putting an 18,000sf Addition onto the north side of Building 86. It will house and support 15 geriatric psychiatric patients on a 24/7 basis. The structure and utility systems are designed to support a future second story.

Sole Source Justification

Rammed Aggregate Pier (RAP) is required as a result of site soils which cannot support a traditional foundation system. The same loose/soft soils have been discovered at other building sites on the Sheridan VAMC campus. The VA personnel indicated early in this project's design that the ground improvement systems used previously did not instill confidence or provide adequate supportive data

and testing to show their systems were appropriate. Proper ground improvement is a critical component of the entire structural system. Reliability of the RAP is of the utmost importance for maintaining proper operation of the facility. Failure of the RAP would adversely affect the structural integrity of the new addition, as well as the existing adjacent Building 86.

The RAP utilizes proprietary system to improve the soils beneath the building foundations. The VA cannot afford to risk the reliability of the RAP by introducing outside systems which do not fulfill the qualifications of the specifications. Outside vendors have not been involved with the design from the start of the project. Geopier has proven performance and holds their Installers to a high standard of care.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** FAR 6.302-1 (2) (c)
The Application for brand name descriptions is essential to this Government requirement. Only one responsible source and no other supplies will satisfy the agency requirement

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**

5.1. The unique qualification of this projects requirements are as follows:

5.1.1 Existing Site Conditions: This project is located on unsuitable loose/soft soils. The Geotechnical Engineer made recommendations to utilize RAP ground improvement in order to improve the overall density and strength of the soil mass. The Geotechnical Engineer also recommended that this specialty contractor be engaged early in design in order to come up with the most appropriate system for this project. Ground water was also encountered at 17ft below existing grade.

5.1.2 VA Comments to AE: These same loose/soft soils had been discovered at other building sites on the Sheridan VAMC campus. The VA personnel indicated early in this project's design that the ground improvement systems used previously did not instill confidence or provide adequate supportive data and testing to show their systems were appropriate before, during and after construction. Concern was expressed regarding structural failure, cracking, displacement and uneven floor levels.

5.1.3. Rammed Aggregate Pier (RAP): Rammed Aggregate Pier (RAP) is required as a result of site soils which cannot support a traditional foundation system. A benefit of RAPs is the level of settlement control and bearing capacity can be designed into the system, thus allowing the system to be tailored to the structure. Due to the level of foundation loads anticipated for the building, it was suggested that the RAP system be designed to a reasonably high bearing capacity to aid in reducing the size of footings. Based on the site soil conditions and experience in the northern Wyoming area, it is anticipated that a RAP system may provide an allowable soil bearing capacity for shallow footings on the order of 6,500 psf, or greater. The RAP system should also be designed to limit total settlement along the south wall of the building addition to less than ¼ inch in order to reduce the potential for differential settlement between the existing building and the new building addition.

5.1.4. Geopier Foundation Company (Geopier): Ground Improvement Engineering will provide a Geopier Foundation Company Inc. approved RAP design to be installed by a Geopier Foundation Company approved and licensed installer. This ensures a full time quality control technician is on site during placement of all rammed aggregate piers.

All plans shall be sealed by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Wyoming with at least 5 years of experience in designing RAP systems.

The Rammed Aggregate Pier Designer shall have Errors and Omissions design insurance for the work. The insurance policy should provide a minimum coverage of \$2 million per occurrence. Modulus tests are performed on a non-production Rammed Aggregate Pier element as required by the RAP Designer to verify the design assumptions.

The Installer furnishes the General Contractor a description of the installation equipment, installation records, complete test data, analysis of the test data and verification of the design parameter values based on the modulus test results. The report is prepared under direction of a Registered Professional Engineer. Daily Rammed Aggregate Pier Progress Reports are provided to record the pier location, length, volume of aggregate used or number of lifts, densification forces during installation, and final elevations or depths of the base and top of piers. The record shall also indicate the type and size of the installation equipment used, and the type of aggregate used. The Installer immediately reports any unusual conditions encountered during installation to the General Contractor, to the Designer, to the Architect, to the Owner and to the Testing Agency.

This quality control process provided by Geopier Foundation Company and an approved Installer ensures that a high level of care, documentation and testing occur for this critical system.

5.1.5. Additional Soil Considerations: The Geotechnical Engineer highly recommended involvement during foundation and subgrade preparation, in order to observe and perform necessary tests. It is recommended that the entire site be scarified and re-compacted at slabs and foundations and imported fill be used. An exterior and interior foundation drainage system with moisture barriers, free draining gravel and sump/pumps systems is also required.

6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:

Efforts are made to solicit from as many potential sources through synopsis in accordance with FAR 5.202 (a)(2)

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:

Products are included in a Total Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) competitive solicitation for a firm fixed price construction contract.

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:

No equal products will satisfy the essential nature of this Government requirement, thereby precluding considerations of products manufactured by another company.

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:

None.

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**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:**

These products are vital to this Government's requirement. Moreover, due to the specific type of funding Veterans Access, Choice & Accountability Act (VACAA), time, scope, and proprietary nature it is not in the Government's best interest to delay this currently funded project.

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.


 Jay Bergstrom
 Engineer

033017
 Date

13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Andrew M
 Stigen 452333

Digitally signed by Andrew M Stigen
 452333
 DN: c=us, o=va, ou=internal, ou=people,
 ou=2342, email=astigen@va.gov,
 cn=Andrew M Stigen 452333
 Date: 2017.03.29 11:51:44 -0500

Andrew Stigen
 Contracting Officer

3/29/2017

Date