

JUSTIFICATION FOR SINGLE SOURCE AWARDS IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#)
(OVER MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD(\$3.5K) BUT NOT EXCEEDING THE SAT (\$150K))

IAW [FAR13.104](#), COs must promote competition to the maximum extent practicable to obtain supplies and services from the source whose offer is the most advantageous to the Government, considering the administrative cost of the purchase. When competition is not practicable, IAW [FAR13.106-1\(b\)](#), COs solicit from a single source for purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold. COs may solicit from one source if the CO determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available (e.g., urgency, exclusive licensing agreements, brand-name or industrial mobilization). IAW [FAR13.106-3\(b\)\(3\)](#), COs are required to include additional statements **explaining the absence of competition** (see [13.106-1](#) for brand name purchases) if only one source is solicited and the acquisition does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (does not apply to an acquisition of utility services available from only one source) or supporting the award decision if other than price-related factors were considered in selecting the supplier. This template when completed can be used to document single source awards IAW [FAR13.106-3\(b\)\(3\)](#). Note: Statements such as "only known source" or "only source which can meet the required delivery date" are inadequate to support a sole source purchase.

1. ACQUISITION PLAN ACTION ID:

646-17-1-6472-0006

**1A. PROJECT/TASK
No.**

1B. ESTIMATED AMOUNT:

\$69,337.50

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUPPLIES OR SERVICES REQUIRED AND THE INTENDED USE:

The requested JACO 6 DOF No Gripper Robotic ARM system and accessories will be used for collaborative research with Kinova Robotics as a testing apparatus. A JACO is a light-weight (5.2 kg) manipulator composed of six inter-linked carbon fiber segments and a three fingered hand. It is typically mounted to the side of a powered wheelchair seat frame allowing it to follow the tilt movement of the seat. The intended use is to identify a list of functional tasks and a set of commercial/custom adapters that allow a JACO arm to assist the completion of these tasks, investigate the validity of a validated assessment tool (ARMET), and determine the effectiveness of a JACO arm in real-world use and examine its potential benefits.

3. UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS THAT LIMIT AVAILABILITY TO ONLY ONE SOURCE, WITH THE REASON NO OTHER SUPPLIES OR SERVICES CAN BE USED:

This is a request for Other Than Full and Open Competition for a Firm Fixed Price Contract for a Kinova JACO 6 DOF No Gripper Robotic ARM system with accessories. Kinova Robotics located in Boisbriand (Quebec), Canada, is the sole manufacturer of the JACO 6 DOF No Gripper Robotic ARM system. Kinova has identified Partners in Medicine as the only USA distributor of the requested unique research equipment and accessories. This scientific cutting edge research equipment will be used in a collaborative project with Kinova Robotics to address issues related to existing users of the JACO 6 DOF No Gripper Robotic ARM system, and specifically for assessment and training, adaptation to environment, and maximization of effective and efficient assistance with regards to support ARM prescription and to help manufacturers further improve ARM design/control. The results of this collaborative research can assist Veterans who use powered mobility devices who often experience functional limitations in reaching and handling that are critical in completing basic activities of daily living. Despite the advancement in surgical restoration and use of neuroprosthesis through functional electrical stimulation, there is still a gap in providing viable solutions to support upper limb functions among these veterans. The requested Kinova JACO 6 DOF No Gripper Robotic ARM system with accessories is the only system that can perform the research project application [REDACTED] that was submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs Research, Rehabilitation service in December of 2016.

4. DESCRIPTION OF MARKET RESEARCH CONDUCTED AND RESULTS OR STATEMENT WHY IT WAS NOT CONDUCTED:

Kinova has identified Partners in Medicine as the only USA distributor of the requested unique research equipment and accessories. There is currently no action taken to remove the barrier to competition. Although not foreseen, future acquisitions by the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System must go to the same manufacturer for research continuity purposes. If a future need does not require the compatibility and research continuity, the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare will promote the fullest competition. Our research team has substantial experience in assistive robotics research. Other research has developed two versions of the assistive robotic manipulator evaluation tool (ARMET). This evaluation tool will be used to conduct the collaborative research project with Kinova robotics and is the sole reason for this contract request. As noted in item 3 and pending funding, application [REDACTED] cannot begin until this contract is awarded.

5. Contracting Officer's Certification *Purchase is approved in accordance with FAR13.106-1(b). I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. Note: COs are required to make a determination of price reasonableness IAW FAR 13.106-3. See the [Commercial Supply and Service SOP](#) for Price Reasonableness templates.*

Signature:

CHERYL A. PURPURA 153055

Digitally signed by CHERYL A. PURPURA 153055
DN: cn=Cheryl A. Purpura, o=VA, ou=Internal, ou=People,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=jonathan.taliani
@va.gov, cn=Jonathan C Taliani 664740
Date: 2016.12.14 14:27:52 -05'00'

Name: Cheryl Purpura

Title: Contract Officer NCO: 4

Date: 12/14/2016

**Jonathan C
Taliani 664740**

Digitally signed by Jonathan C Taliani
664740
DN: dc=gov, dc=va, o=internal, ou=people,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=jonathan.taliani
@va.gov, cn=Jonathan C Taliani 664740
Date: 2016.12.14 14:27:52 -05'00'

Signature:

Name: Jonathan Taliani

Title: Acting Branch Chief, Hybrid 2 NCO: 4

Date: 12/14/2016