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To:3602560936

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS****Justification and Approval  
For  
Other Than Full and Open Competition**

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office (NCO)20, for VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics, White City, Oregon. The VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics (VA SORCC) is located at:  
8495 Crater Lake Hwy  
White City, OR 97503  
Phone: (541) 826-2111

The Contracting Officer for this procurement, 692-12-2-2817-0009 -- VA260-12-R-0682 will be Tamara Potwora of the Medical Sharing Team.

2. **Nature of the Action Being Processed:**

The proposed contract action is for equine assisted occupational therapy (Hippo Therapy) from a licensed occupation therapist. The services in this contract are limited to Veterans being seen at the VA SORCC, White City, Oregon. This contract will be awarded as a new contract. It will be a firm fixed priced contract. There was no previous contract in place for this requirement.

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

The purchase request for this procurement is 692-12-2-2817-0009. The solicitation number is VA260-12-R-0682.

This procurement is for equine assisted occupational therapy from a licensed occupation therapist. Requirement requires that the Occupational Therapist be licensed as at least an AHA Level II Therapist and have therapy experience with Veteran care issues such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Chronic Pain. The Organization shall be accredited by VA endorsed PATH International (Horses for Heroes program. Because of transportation issues the service should not take place at a location farther than 70 miles from VA SORCC.

The estimated value for this procurement is for \$75,000.00 total.

1. Base year - \$15,000 - 04/01/2012 to 3/31/2013
2. Option year 1 \$15,000 -- 04/01/2013 to 03/31/2014
3. Option year 2 \$15,000 -- 04/01/2014 to 03/31/2015
4. Option year 3 \$15,000 -- 04/01/2015 to 03/31/2016
5. Option year 4 \$15,000 -- 04/01/2016 to 03/31/2017

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**4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**

**Statutory Authority: 41 U.S.C. 253(c), or 38 U.S.C. 8153 as implemented by FAR 6.302-1.**

- ☒ (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
- ☐ (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
- ☐ (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
- ☐ (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
- ☐ (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
- ☐ (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
- ☐ (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;

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

The procurement requirement requires that vendor be certified by Path International and must be within a 70 mile radius of VA SORCC. This is a highly specialized service requiring a facility and horses capable of providing the service with an occupational therapist with experience providing services to Veterans. The 70-mile radius restriction is to limit the time and cost of travel for veterans. The contracting officer used the organization's find a center to research possible vendors. The contracting officer used Google maps to determine which centers are located within a 70-mile radius of White City, Oregon.

Two centers were identified one in California, Stable Hands and one in Oregon, Hope Equestrian Center. After discussions with Christopher Petrone it was determined that Hope Equestrian Center is a member of PATH International but not an accredited center. An accredited center has been visited and inspected by Path International. Stable Hands of Yreka, California is an accredited center. The Statement of Work requires the center to be an accredited center, Stable Hands is the only accredited center within the 70 mile radius of VA SORCC. Therefore; Stable Hands is the only accredited source of Hippo therapy within a reasonable travel distance of VA SORCC.

Given that there is only one responsible source of this highly specialized service within the maximum travel distance, putting the solicitation out would cause an unacceptable delay in providing these services to the veterans. The contracting officer has determined that the delay required for competition would not provide any reduction in cost and would not provide any additional source of the service.

Accordingly, Stable Hands is the only firm capable of providing the supplies and services described in the section 3 above without the Veteran's Health Administration experiencing unacceptable delays in fulfilling its requirements.

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

Given that one of the requirements of the Statement of Work is the vendor must be accredited by Path International the contracting officer used Path International's find a center to research possible vendors. The contracting officer used Google maps to determine which centers were located within a 70-mile radius of White City, Oregon.

Two centers were identified one in California, Stable Hands and one in Oregon, Hope Equestrian Center. After discussions with Christopher Petrone it was determined that Hope Equestrian Center is a member of PATH International but not an accredited center. An accredited center has been visited and inspected by Path International. Stable Hands of Yreka, California is an accredited center. Stable Hands is the only accredited center within the 70 mile radius of VA SORCC. Therefore; Stable Hands is the only accredited source of Hippo therapy within a reasonable travel distance of VA SORCC.

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

It is anticipated that the anticipated cost will be fair and reasonable. The contracting officer has identified and contacted two other contracting officer in the VA who have procured these services. The contracting officer has asked for pricing data from their contracts to determine fair and reasonable.

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

The contracting officer used Google to research the Horses for Hero's program that is used nationwide by the VA to provide hippo therapy to veterans. Path International is a sponsor of the Horses for Hero's program they accredit centers who meets the organization's guidelines. The find a center on Path International's website lists member and accredited members of Path International. The contracting officer used the organization's find a center to research possible vendors. The contracting officer used Google maps to determine which centers are located within a 70-mile radius of White City, Oregon.

The contracting officer searched eCMS for equine and hippo contracts and requested information their contracts. In addition, an email was sent to the eCMS users group requesting information. Two contracting officers responded with solicitations. The SOW has a statement requiring the veterans to sign a document to hold the VA harmless if there was an accident. Regional counsel was contacted and we discussed the statement and the type of insurance required.

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

This is a highly specialized service that we require to be accredited by Path International. This accreditation requirement will ensure that the veterans will have a program that meets minimum standards. There are few organizations that provide this service within a reasonable distance of the facility.


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

There are no sources that express an interest in the acquisition in writing.

**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:**

The highly specialized nature of this acquisition requiring an equine center that employees a licensed occupational therapist and be accredited by Path International. The VA may encourage Hope Equestrian Center to hire an occupational therapist and to seek accreditation from Path International. It would take years for other centers to comply with the requirements in the SOW and get experience providing the services. Therefore, we are proposing a base plus four year contract.

**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.

  
Name Chris Petersen, LSW Date 3/31/12  
Title Off/Outreach Program Manager  
Facility VA SORC

**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.

  
Tamara Potwora  
Contracting Officer  
NCO 20 Contracting

3/31/2012  
Date

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- b. **Branch Manager Certification:** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.



Mark Erickson for  
Jonathan Santangelo  
Medical Sharing Manager

04/02/2012  
Date