

Justification for Other than Full and Open Competition
“Bridge Contract” for AITC Armed Security Guard Services, Austin, TX

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”)
Office of Acquisition Operations (“OAO”)
Strategic Acquisition Center (“SAC”)
10300 Spotsylvania Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

2. Description of the Action: This proposed action is for a firm-fixed-priced (“FFP”) “bridge contract” to a single source, Culpepper & Associates Security Services, Inc., to provide armed guard services at the Austin Information Technology Center (“AITC”). The period of performance is two (2) months, from June 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017. Although there is no definition in the FAR for “bridge contract”, it is axiomatic that a bridge contract is understood to mean a non-competitive contract/order or contract/order extension with an existing contractor to bridge the time between the original end of that contractor’s contract/order (following exercise of all options or extension provisions meeting the requirements of FAR 17.207) and the competitive award of a follow-on contract/order. This is a short-term solution to ensure a continuation of armed guard services at the AITC, a level IV facility until a competitive award is achieved.

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Austin Information Technology Center (“AITC”), requires armed security officers and allied security services to be provided on a 24-hour basis (24X7X365) to protect persons and property at the AITC, including any alternate worksite(s) in the event of a disaster as may be declared by the Government in accordance with its Continuity of Operations Plan (“COOP”). The Contractor shall provide all management, supervision, labor, training, equipment, and supplies necessary to provide armed security officer services as described herein (except those specifically stated as “provided by the Government” or “Government Furnished Equipment (“GFE”). As noted in paragraph 2, the period of performance will consist of two (2) months, June 1 through July 31, 2017. The estimated price of this bridge contract is \$361,708.

4. Authority: Citations: 10 U.S.C. §2304(c)(1), 41 U.S.C. §3304(a)(1), Federal Acquisition Regulation (“FAR”) 6.302-1, ‘Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements’ and under 10 U.S.C. §2304(c)(2), 41 U.S.C. §3304(a)(2), FAR 6.302.2 ‘Unusual and compelling urgency when delay in award of a contract would result in serious injury, financial or otherwise, to the Government’.

5. Rationale Supporting the Use of the Authority Cited Above: Due to the contemporaneous issues relative to the time to implement a new contract and the need to maintain armed guard services without any lapse in services, there are two main

reasons to proceed with a sole source bridge contract to the incumbent. The current extension of services under FAR 52.217-8 expires on May 31, 2017 and this will exhaust all six (6) months. It is understood there can be no lapse of services at the AITC; therefore, the two possible solutions are a sole source bridge contract or an entirely new solicitation and resulting contract to all SDVOSB firms. Because of the magnitude, diversity, and the complexity of armed guard services at a level IV facility, a new contractor will need a 30-day phase-in period. A level IV facility is the highest level for any VA facility, having the incumbent will avoid the need for a phase-in period, risk is mitigated through a known source, and it ensures no lapse in services. The second issue is the lack of time to do a new contract. That is, because of document development, compliance reviews, and internal requirement transfers, there is not enough time to proceed with the anticipatory solicitation VA119-17-Q-0089 which has already absorbed approximately three to four weeks. The latter is pending OGC review prior to publication. If the SAC cannot proceed with the planned sole source solicitation, it will not be able to proceed with an entirely new one. Because of the forgoing event and time driven factors, both FAR 6.302-1 and 6.302.2 are acceptable authorities to justify a sole source bridge contract to the incumbent.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted and those details are contained in the market research report, which is part of the contract file. There are numerous SDVOSB contractors on GSA FSS, Schedule 84, Category 246-54 [NAICES Code 561612 / PSC S206]. Subsequent to the expiration of the two-month bridge contract, there is an expectation that a new contract will be in place through robust competition.

7. Determination of Best Value: I hereby determine that the proposed contract action will represent the best value to the Government. The prices provided by the offeror will be compared to historical pricing of the previous contract and compared with prices on the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) that were previously negotiated by GSA and are considered fair and reasonable. Any other additional price discounts will be sought as applicable and when available. Although the incumbent's pricing is known and has already been determined to be fair and reasonable, the possibility of a *de minimis* pricing increase exists.

8. Market Research: As noted in paragraph 6, Market Research was conducted and those results are embodied in the Market Research Report. There are numerous vendors who can provide armed security guard services and are SDVOSBs. There is an anticipation at least two SDVOSB will quote on the current requirement when it is publicized.

9. Any other Facts Supporting this Justification: None.

10. Actions to Increase Competition: There is no lack of competition among available SDVOSB firms providing the sought after armed guard services. The two-month period of performance will not exceed the time necessary for the agency to enter into another contract for the required goods and services through competitive procedures. The

acquisition for the long term AITC armed security guard services shall be publicized to all SDVOSB firms under the applicable NAICS code.

11. Technical and Requirements Certification: I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in this justification, are accurate and compete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Brian Callender, AITC Security Officer

Date

12. Determination of Best Value: I hereby determine that the proposed contract action will represent the best value to the Government.

05/16/2017

Zachary Wilcox, Contracting Officer

Date

13. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I hereby certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Approval

Based on the foregoing justification, I hereby approve the acquisition of a two month bridge contract for armed guard services at the Austin Information Technology Center ("AITC") under ("FAR") 6.302-1, 'Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements' and under FAR 6.302.2 'Unusual and compelling urgency when delay in award of a contract would result in serious injury, financial or otherwise, to the Government', subject to availability of funds, and provided that the services herein described have otherwise been authorized for this acquisition.

05/16/2017

Zachary Wilcox, Contracting Officer

Date