

**Simplified Acquisition
Brand Name Justification
Uninterrupted Power Supply Preventative Maintenance**

Based on the information provided herein and in accordance with FAR 13.106-1(b)(i)(Soliciting a Brand Name), I hereby determine that only vendors capable of providing the required services described herein and are certified service sales partners of Schneider Electric are acceptable for this requirement.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Information & Technology (OI&T), Service Delivery and Engineering, Enterprise Operations (EO), Quantico Information Technology Center (QITC) and Culpepper Information Technology Center (CITC), requires a brand named service plan that includes monthly preventative maintenance for Uninterrupted Power Supplies (UPS's). This shall include the servicing of the input/output electrical switchgears, distribution electrical power panels, electrical breakers, batteries, software, and software diagnostics.

The UPS systems are the most critical systems of several systems required to maintain electrical service for the computer rooms at QITC and CITC. If UPS systems do not operate 100% of the time the computer room may lose its operational status. Consequently, all computerized technical services would cease. It will take several days to restore service to the computer rooms. An estimated Nine million Veterans will be impacted immediately. Certain data will be permanently lost and it will take hundreds of staff to restore the computer rooms. Estimates indicate it would cost the VA \$2M per day while operations are being restored.

Schneider Electric is the manufacturer of QITC's and CITC's UPS's. Therefore, the brand named service plan is required from a manufacturer certified Contractor because of the critical requirement to complete monthly preventative maintenance tasks for the UPS's software maintenance. This includes, but is not limited to software upgrades, patches, and diagnostics to access the historical event logs from the UPS's and to monitor the UPS batteries. In order to complete these digital services, the Contractor must have the software and tools that are proprietary to the manufacturer and used only by Contractors who are certified by the manufacturer. A non-certified contractor would not be able to complete these requirements as they do not have the software access rights or passwords for direct interfacing with the UPS's software.

Market research was conducted to verify that the circumstances surrounding the brand name procurement are factual. In this market research, there have been sources identified that are certified by the manufacturer to provide required maintenance services. Market research has also indicated that there are no equal services options available due to the required software upgrades, patches, and diagnostics.

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Based on the information included herein, there are no known sources that are capable of fulfilling the requirement other than those sources capable of fulfilling this requirement with the manufactures brand name service plan. The market will be reexamined every 12 months before exercising any options to see if any new sources are available that meet the contract requirements.

Signed

Richelle Wright
Contracting Officer