

LIMITED-SOURCES JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, NJ 07724

2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed price (FFP) new work modification to task order VA118-16-F-1129 under General Services Administration (GSA) Information Technology (IT) 70 Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contract number GS-35F-0267X with Fedmine LLC (Fedmine) for Fedmine Data Analysis Software licenses, maintenance and technical support.

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) has a requirement for 50 brand name Fedmine Data Analysis Software licenses, maintenance and technical support. The proposed action requirements include licenses and maintenance packages for a cloud-based Software as a Service (SaaS) solution to address market research, market intelligence, predictive analytics, small business goaling, Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) tool, Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVSOB) and other reporting services to aid OSDBU, Procurement Decision Makers (PDM's), Program Offices, Contracting Officers, and other VA official in conducting detailed analytics and compelling and defensible market research. The proposed solution will support 50 concurrent users creating, accessing and reporting thousands of capabilities and procurement records. The proposed solution shall display a unified view of federal spending information so that VA stakeholders can effectively study and analyze all necessary touch points in the spending lifecycle. The proposed solution shall also support the market intelligence and information needs of stakeholders at all levels that access data from both VA and external systems. The proposed solution shall utilize a variety of business intelligence techniques to aggregate and present data in real-time to assist users with decision making through metrics and key performance indicators, dashboards with graphical displays, interactive reports, and self-service ad-hoc reporting. The proposed solution shall tie information together so that users can see what contracting offices are buying within the VA and other federal agencies, from which vendors, and at what prices.

4. Authority Cited: This acquisition is conducted under the authority of the Multiple-Award Schedule Program. The specific authority providing for a limited source award is Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B), "Only one source is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is Fedmine, 13708 Ginkgo Terrace, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Based on extensive market research, as described in section eight of this justification, it was determined that competition is not viable, as Fedmine is the proprietary owner and only vendor that can provide the required Fedmine product and services. FedMine, through utilization of a proprietary algorithm, is the only source that can provide data mining from thirteen separate systems, including the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation, Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) page, Grants.gov, and the Government Accountability Office's protest database. The required Fedmine FD GovPro software is not available through resellers. This data mining system is currently being utilized by OSDDBU. However, the current software licenses will expire on June 26, 2017. Fedmine's proprietary algorithm system to datamine procurement, past performance, and corporate data and provide associated customizable reports is currently being utilized by OSDDBU for goaling support and market research assistance to contracting and program offices throughout VA. Data is near real-time and provides the information necessary to enable contracting and program offices to make accurate decisions about the availability and capability of SDVOSB and VOSBs consistent with the requirements of Public Law 109-461 for the Veterans First Contracting Program. All of the aforementioned characteristics are essential to meet the market intelligence and information needs of all stakeholders across VA. Failure to procure the licenses and maintenance packages in a timely matter will result in the increased risk of VA failing to meet statutory requirements for small business participation in procurements and Procurement Decision Makers needs to conduct effective market research in support of their acquisitions.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR Part 8.405-6(a)(2) and FAR Part 5.301, a copy of this Limited-Sources Justification will be posted, along with a synopsis of the award notice, to the FBO website within 14 days of award. In accordance with FAR 8.405-6(a)(2), this justification will be posted with the request for quotation on the GSA E-Buy website to notify all interested parties.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: OSDDBU technical experts will continue to monitor the availability of cloud-based Software as a service (SaaS) solutions that can meet VA's requirements in the future. An acquisition with more robust enterprise requirements has been submitted to the Virtual Office of Acquisition to acquire a business intelligence technology platform that will allow VA to obtain enterprise market research and data analytics capabilities. Accordingly, there will be no further non-competitive actions for the Fedmine software licenses and maintenance required by this justification.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by OSDBU in June 2017. The Vendor Information Pages (VIP) database was queried on June 2, 2017 to determine if there were verified SDVOSB or VOSB firms capable of providing the SaaS licenses for the Fedmine GovPro product, in order to meet the OSDBU's need for market research data analytics and associated maintenance and technical support; six (6) firms were identified from the VIP query. Another query was performed within the Small Business Administration's Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS), System for Award Management (SAM), and GSA Advantage resulting in 94 firms stating that they performed SaaS and possess the licenses for various types of software.

OSDBU conducted further analysis on the results from the queries performed. Out of the six (6) firms identified in the VIP query, three (3) are SDVOSB's and three (3) are VOSBs. Brilliant Blaze, an SDVOSB firm, provides cyber security and cloud migration SaaS. eTranservices, an SDVOSB firm, provides software requirement management and quality assurance and testing SaaS. ICARE.com LLC, a VOSB firm, provides electronic health records services. Imperium Legacy Technologies, a VOSB firm, provides telemedicine, cloud solutions, and mobility SaaS. TCI Software, Inc., a VOSB firm provides healthcare software and electronic records SAAS. Wasatch Infotech LLC, an SDVOSB firm, provides cloud integration and modernization, and software development SaaS. None of the firms provided a commercially available off-the-shelf solution that would enable OSDBU or VA program and contracting activities to obtain and analyze procurement spend, subcontracting, and budgetary data to assist with small business goals establishment and management or market research to determine the most appropriate acquisition strategy for VA procurements.

Of the 94 additional firms identified in DSBS, SAM, and GSA Advantage, only one (Media Framework LLC) contained any reference to market research data analytics. At the current time, there does not appear to be any firm in the market that can provide government spend data analytics on software as a service basis to provide real time data to the government. Only Fedmine can provide the required product and services to meet VA requirements. Additionally, only Fedmine can access the proprietary source code in order to provide the required maintenance and technical support of its software.

9. Other Facts: None.