

Brand Name PrivPlus Software Licenses

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center 260
Industrial Way West Eatontown, NJ
07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed-price contract, issued on a sole source basis to Vendor Credentialing Service, LLC, located at 124 1st Avenue South, Suite 200, Franklin, Tennessee 37067.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: VA, Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), Information Technology Operations and Service, End User Operations Region 3 (Veteran Integrated Service Networks [VISNs] 6 through 10) requires renewal of 43 existing brand name PrivPlus software licenses currently being used by these VISN Credentialing and Human Resource departments across 41 VA facilities. PrivPlus software is a supplemental product to VetPro, the national credentialing software system utilized by VA. PrivPlus credentialing software allows healthcare providers' clinical privileges and pertinent information (including photograph of provider) to be viewed electronically. The contractor shall provide software renewals and updates via virtual download capabilities. The contractor shall also provide any training and technical support as required via helpdesk. The period of performance shall be August 7, 2017 through August 6, 2018 for the Base Period followed by one 12-month Option Period.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C.3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Vendor Credentialing Service, LLC is the sole provider for PrivPlus software and products that supplement the credentialing software currently being used by VA facilities across the country as required by VA Central Office. PrivPlus has an import function that can import data directly from VetPro into PrivPlus and provide reporting capabilities that are vital to day to day operations. For example, PrivPlus runs a license expiration report, an integral feature required by the Credentialing department. Other reports unique to PrivPlus include Committee Attendance, Basic Life Support/Advanced Cardio Life Support, and Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation/Focus Professional Practice Evaluation. Additionally, PrivPlus has incorporated many VA Forms into its program and will print the standard VA Report of Contact, Board Actions Forms, Request for Military Records, and other VA specific forms. PrivPlus is the only product that meets VA's need by allowing a

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provider's clinical privileges and/or other pertinent information (including photograph of provider) to be viewed electronically and on the VA Intranet, on a need to know basis by location, provider, service, or section. The flexibility of PrivPlus allows programs to run on local Personal Computers or facility networks with the ability to verify license and board certifications by entering a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address in the License Agency and Board Master List in the PrivPlus system. By utilizing the URL address through PrivPlus, the appropriate individual's license/board standing is immediately accessed, allowing "real time" information to be verified. Images of verification can also be captured and stored in PrivPlus. There is no other brand name software that can meet all of VA's needs and be interoperable and compatible with the VetPro credentialing software database. Failure to acquire PrivPlus licenses could pose a risk to ensuring timely physician license verification and accurate reporting.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 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. Procurement data does not include any unnecessary requirements that may inhibit competition.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, VA will continue to conduct additional market research so that other software solutions can be considered.

8. Market Research: Market research efforts were conducted by VA subject matter experts in March 2017. After researching other vendors such as IntelliSoft Group and Echo Credentialing, it was determined that Vendor Credentialing Service, LLC is the sole provider of all PrivPlus products and there are no other authorized resellers who can provide the required software renewals and support. Vendor Credentialing Service, LLC also known as Symplyr, has a second credentialing product called Cactus Provider Credentialing. After reviewing the features and contacting the vendor, it was determined that Cactus does not currently have the capability to import from VA VetPro, the Federal Credentialing program used by VA and therefore would not meet VA's needs.

Existing contract vehicles, to include the NASA SEWP V GWAC and General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedules (FSS), were reviewed to identify available sources as resellers of the required PrivPlus software renewals. The results from the NASA SEWP V GWAC Provider Lookup showed that GC Micro can provide the required PrivPlus software renewals. However, with further Market Research GC Micro was contacted and it was verified that they are no longer authorized to sell PrivPlus. Moreover, it was revealed that PrivPlus software and renewals are not available from any source other than Vendor Credentialing Service, LLC and that Vendor Credentialing Service, LLC is not a holder of a NASA SEWP V GWAC, GSA FSS contract or any other existing contract vehicles available for ordering by Government agencies. Additionally, the contracting officer reached out to a representative from Symplyr doing business as Vendor

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Credentialing Service, LLC who confirmed that they are the only source for PrivPlus software, which is not resold through any third party vendors.

9. Other Facts: None.