

JUSTIFICATION  
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Office of Acquisition Operations  
Technology Acquisition Center  
23 Christopher Way  
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a brand name firm-fixed-price delivery order issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC), henceforth referred to as NASA SEWP.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to purchase one 25-seat brand name Sharegate software license, including associated technical support and software maintenance. This product will be used by VA Enterprise Service Line (ESL), Region 3 Web & SharePoint (SP) team primarily at the VA data center in Orlando, Florida.

VA ESL supports operations of approximately 120,000 staff in VA working under the ESL Region 3 service area. VA ESL provides administration for web and SP services including hosting and managing SP sites. Additionally, VA ESL is responsible for establishing applicable policy, managing server health and performance, ensuring compliance, as well as performing data backup and recovery. The required Sharegate tool is a SP migration technology that allows users to copy/migrate documents, list items, workflows, and sites from one SP version and location to another. VA ESL's current project is to migrate data from Richmond, Virginia on SP 2010 to the new SP 2013 server environment in Orlando, Florida. Sharegate software will allow VA ESL staff to copy data from testing environments to production environments and re-organize their SharePoint architecture. The Sharegate interface allows for exploration of the SP environment, capture of inventory data for site collections, sub-sites, lists, etc., and reports for on-site use or inactivity including the ability to add/remove and customize columns in inventory reports. Sharegate also provides the ability to copy data with attachments from lists to external network shared folders thereby removing the data from SharePoint.

This procurement also includes the requirement for Sharegate technical support and software maintenance, which consists of support via telephone, internet, email, and access to software updates/patches. The period of performance for the proposed delivery order will consist of a 12-month base period with three 12-month option periods for continued Sharegate technical support and maintenance renewals, if exercised. The total estimated value of the proposed action is [REDACTED]

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled "Only one awardee is capable of

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providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized”.

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above:

Based on the market research, as described in section 8 of this document, it was determined that limited competition is available for the required brand name Sharegate software from either Sharegate or one of its authorized resellers. It is acknowledged that there are similar products in the commercial marketplace, such as AvePoint Docave and Quest Migrator. However, these products lack the following functionality that is critical to VA ESL’s requirements:

- The ability to capture inventory data for site collections, sub-sites, lists, etc. and reporting on site use or inactivity including the ability to add/remove & customize columns in inventory reports;
- The ability to copy data with attachments from lists to external network shared folders thereby removing the data from SP;
- Capability to preserve metadata such as last modified date/time-stamp and last modified by (person’s name) in the newer version (target list, library or site)
- Capability to write a summary of the metadata for each file in an Excel spreadsheet stored at the root folder;
- The ability to migrate sites and data from SP 2010 to SP2013 with no restriction on amount of data migrated/upgraded. This is one of the most important differences from other competing tools;
- The ability to migrate sites and data to SP 2016 as well as to SP on Microsoft Office 365 (Online/Cloud);
- The ability to change content metadata from a non-active person’s account (e.g. retired employee) to an active account and continue to copy/migrate the data;
- The ability to remap old expired site templates to new site templates ensuring the capability of continued use on newer versions of SharePoint.

Based on the above, Sharegate is currently the only product that could fulfill the Government’s requirement. If Sharegate is not acquired, then VA ESL’s team will not be able to complete the migration of content from SP 2010 to SP 2013 as planned. VA ESL is currently in the middle of a migration with plans to create mostly new SP 2013 native sites for each VA Medical Center in Region 3. Without Sharegate, VA ESL would be forced to migrate/upgrade everything (lists, libraries, and current content ) in each database. A huge amount of this content is outdated or no longer used and therefore can be identified and omitted from the migration by using Sharegate. It would be technically counterintuitive to move all the old content as this action would immediately invalidate the accuracy of information on new SP sites. Failure to use Sharegate for this migration would add major technical risk of moving all old sites from SP 2010, most of which were originally started in SP 2007 or as far back as SP 2003. Many templates cannot be upgraded due to changes in Microsoft’s design of the product. The further back the template was initiated on a certain version of SharePoint, the more risks are assumed for not being able to upgrade and use the data effectively in the future.

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Furthermore, without Sharegate, VA ESL would also lose the capability to run inventory reports and check security of sites (old and new). This would be a tremendous negative burden on the current project as well as VA's customers that regularly ask for inventory reports to help understand their SP sites and sub sites in order to provide effective communication and collaboration tools. .

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted and details of which are in the market research section 8 of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. However, it was determined that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers for the required brand name Sharegate. In accordance with 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), this justification will be made publicly available within 14 days of award on the Federal Business Opportunities. This justification shall also be posted with the solicitation on the NASA SEWP website for review by prospective offerors.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be fully competed.

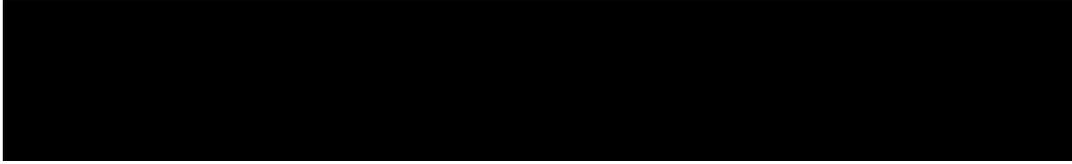
8. Market Research: Market research was conducted in March 2017 by Government technical experts to ascertain the ability of any source other than Sharegate or an authorized reseller to provide the required software. The research consisted of reviewing alternative SP content migration software packages including AvePoint Docave and Quest Migrator. Based on review of these products, the Government's technical experts determined that only Sharegate software meets the Government's technical requirements for the reasons discussed above in paragraph 5. Therefore, only Sharegate or a Sharegate authorized reseller can be considered for this procurement.

Additional market research conducted in April 2017 using the NASA SEWP Provider Lookup tool identified multiple Sharegate authorized resellers on the vehicle. The requirement discussed herein has been found to be within scope of NASA SEWP in a separate determination by the Contracting Officer in May 2017. As a result of the aforementioned market research, VA intends to issue Request for Quotation number VA118-17-Q-1954 on NASA SEWP.

9. Other Facts: N/A.

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



11. Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on contracts awarded on NASA SEWP having already been determined to be fair and reasonable. Additionally, as there are multiple potential resellers on NASA SEWP, further price competition is anticipated. Finally, the proposed price will be compared to the Independent Government Cost Estimate.



12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed \$700,000, the certification below required by FAR 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(C)(1) serves as approval.

