

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, NJ 07724

2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a brand name firm-fixed-priced delivery order, issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V, Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC). This procurement is for the Veterans Administration (VA), Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), Infrastructure Operations (IO), Information and Technology Operations and Services (ITOPS), Enterprise Telecommunications Management (ETM).

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to purchase SPLUNK enterprise license (QTY 1, 100 Gigabytes (GB)/day), 1-year software support (QTY 1) and professional services (QTY 20 days for use during a 1-year period) to assist ETM staff with installation and configuration. The contractor professional assistance services may require on-site work at the Austin Information Technology Center to provide consulting to ETM staff who will perform the installation and configuration on VA systems. The total estimated value of the proposed action is \$370,279 (inclusive of options).

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 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: This is a brand name justification in accordance with FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. The purpose of this acquisition is to obtain software licensing that will allow the ITOPS data centers to collect and store all syslog network traffic/data, containing critical information and errors messages that are used to identify and address all critical issues and system failures. Additionally the software must be interoperable and able to communicate with VA Network and Security Operations Center (NSOC), which uses SPLUNK. To meet the Government's need, the software must be able to transmit an unlimited number of syslog data to NSOC without requiring manual transmission, and allow for the addition of other syslog destinations without requiring the replacement of VA devices that are currently at maximum capacity.

We reviewed similar software including Solarwinds and Syslog Watcher. However, these syslog software do not have the capability to handle the ITOPS data centers'

required volume (100 GB/day). Also, SPLUNK software communicates through source code that is based on SPLUNK proprietary data. Therefore, no other manufacturers' software can provide the NSOC communication capability required without this source code. No other Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) software can provide both the volume and interoperability required. The SPLUNK brand name software is the only software available that will meet these requirements.

Only the SPLUNK software has the capability to handle the data centers' volume of traffic, and provide the intercommunication required with NSOC to transmit an unlimited number of syslog data without requiring manual transmission, and allow for the addition of other syslog destinations without requiring the replacement of VA devices that are currently at maximum capacity. No other software product fully performs these vital functions. Thus, only SPLUNK software licenses, along with support and services to assist with installation, will allow ITOPS to obtain the software that provides the required volume of syslog messages required and allow for full interoperable communication with NSOC to meet the Government's needs. Based on the market research, as described in section 8 of this document, it was determined that limited competition is available among resellers of the required brand name SPLUNK software/licenses, support and professional services.

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. It was determined however that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers that hold NASA SEWP V GWACs for the required brand name SPLUNK software license(s), support and professional services. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a) (4) (iii) (A) this justification will be posted with the solicitation on the NASA SEWP V website.

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 competed.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by VA technical experts from February 2017 to April 2017, by reviewing other similar software products. The market research was conducted by a review of industry websites and analysis of similar software including syslog software available from SolarWinds and Syslog Watcher. The market research demonstrated these similar brand name software are not capable of handling the required volume of 100 GB/day to provide all syslog data, and effectively communicate with NSOC systems. These and other OEM syslog software are not compatible with SPLUNK's proprietary software code which is required to effectively communicate with NSOC. Based on reviews of these products, the Government's technical experts determined that none of these products can meet the Government's volume and interoperability requirements previously discussed. Based on all of these market research efforts, the Government's technical experts have determined that only SPLUNK Orion brand name software/licenses, along with software support and professional services for installation assistance, can meet all of VA's needs.

9. Other Facts: N/A

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.

Brian Larkin

Date: April 20, 2017

Chief, Networking, ITOPS, ETM Signature: _____

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 ***(insert the methods that will be used to determine a fair and reasonable price)***.

Name

Date: _____

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: _____