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
                              23 Christopher Way
                              Eatontown, NJ 07724

2. Description of Action: The proposed sole source action is for a Firm-Fixed Price modification to contract VA118-16-C-1371 in order to modify the already contracted Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License embedded in the Portfolio Classification and Reporting Tool (PCRT) provided by Elsevier in order to be compliant with Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 201-2.  The current contract is with Elsevier B.V, Engineering Information, Radarweg 29, Amsterdam, North Holland, 1043 NX.

3. Description of Supplies or Services: The proposed action is a modification to existing contract, VA118-16-C-1371.  VA currently has the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License embedded in the PCRT provided by Elsevier.  The enterprise license was originally procured on June 29, 2011 and the contract was renewed in September 2016 on a sole source basis.  The Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License is part of the PCRT.  The PCRT is a set of solution modules integrated and configured as one system to help with critical functions of VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), including categorizing and reporting VA research, and provide information to help the merit review process by checking conflicts of interest and researching duplicative projects. The Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License, which is for VA internal use, allows the VA ORD to utilize the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine for all the portfolio categorization and reporting tool modules and other VA internal applications. In addition, the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License provides an automated portfolio classification capability for all ORD research projects; provide an analytic capability to evaluate the research program for areas of strength, influence, trends, gaps, and new opportunities; provide functionality for the identification of internal and external reviewers and reviewer comparison against incoming proposals; and provide internal and external reporting tools.  This proposed modification is for the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License to be modified to remove vendor provided (graphic user interface) sign on and implement a two factor authentication using the single sign-on internal facing technology to work within the current VA infrastructure in order to be compliant with Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) publication 201-2 as mandated by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology memo dated June 27, 2016, entitled, "Mandate to Meet Personal Identity

Verification (PIV) Requirements for New and Existing Systems." The period of performance for this proposed modification is three months from date of modification award. The total estimated price for the proposed action $.

4. Authority Cited: 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(a)(2) entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this modification is Elsevier B.V, Engineering Information, Radarweg 29, Amsterdam, North Holland, 1043 NX. Based on extensive market research as described in section 8 of this justification, it is determined that only Elsevier is capable of modifying the proprietary Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License to remove vendor provided (graphic user interface) sign on in order to be compliant with FIPS publication 201-2 as mandated by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology memo dated June 27, 2016, entitled, " Mandate to Meet Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Requirements for New and Existing Systems." No other vendor can modify the proprietary Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License. Elsevier is not willing to sell its proprietary source codes to the Government for the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License in order for the Government to source to another vendor. In the event the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License is not modified, there is a potential for VA Network and patient records to be compromised. Thereby placing all Veteran electronic health records at risk via unauthorized log-in.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research document and below. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition due to the proprietary nature of the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License. Additionally, the proposed action will be synopsized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page in accordance with FAR 5.201. Any proposals that are received shall be evaluated.

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 modifications to be competed.

8. Market Research: In June 2017, VA technical experts in the program office reviewed websites of similar product, Google Scholar, CiteSpace and Microsoft Academic. CiteSpace provides a comparable, enterprise search tool but cannot provide the specific functions/capabilities as delineated above in Section 5. The Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization category definitions used by NIH are not available through any

other vendor and cannot be duplicated without using the proprietary Elsevier fingerprint engine technology.  Therefore, no other vendor is able to modify the already contracted Elsevier Fingerprint Engine Enterprise License embedded in the PCRT provided by Elsevier in order to be compliant with FIPS Publication 201-2.

9. <u>Other Facts</u>: None.

10. <u>Technical and Requirements Certification</u>: 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.

Lynne Truesdale                                 Date: _____

Program Manager                              Signature: _____

11. <u>Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination</u>: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on comparison to the independent Government cost estimate and price analysis.

Iris Farrell                                          Date: _____

Procuring Contracting Officer            Signature: _____

12. <u>Procuring Contracting Officer Certification</u>: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed $700,000.00, the certification below required by FAR 6.302-1(a)(2) serves as approval.

Iris Farrell                                          Date: _____

Procuring Contracting Officer            Signature: _____