

## 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 the issuance of a firm-fixed-price task order under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) for Redis Labs Enterprise Cluster (RLEC) software maintenance.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: VA Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), Service Delivery and Engineering, Enterprise Operations (EO) has a requirement for RLEC software maintenance. Redis software is an in-memory data structure store, used as a cache and message broker. The software provides built-in persistence of the cache and messages if the system goes down as well as more data structure for caching and messaging. As part of the VistA Evolution (VE) consolidation effort these Redis licenses are required for the consolidation of the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Data Access Services (DAS) application environment, which are being moved from field operations sites at Sungard and Martinsburg data centers to EO. The software maintenance will consist of software upgrades and updates to include major releases, point releases, service releases and security releases of applicable software on a quarterly basis, and/or within 48 hours in cases in which a high risk vulnerability fix becomes available. These maintenance services are critical in order for EO to be able to operate successfully. Without the acquisition of the required software maintenance, the software could become inoperable. The period of performance for this effort is from August 17, 2017 through August 16, 2018 with four 12-month option periods. The total estimated price, inclusive of option periods, of the proposed action is \$561,438.00.
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: Based on market research, as described in section 8 of this justification it was determined that limited competition is available among authorized resellers for the required software maintenance. The current EO DAS application environment is based on existing Redis software and VA requires support compatible with the existing functionality for continued operational availability. Due to the proprietary nature of the software code

in the existing DAS, which is comprised of Redis software, only Redis software will meet VA's requirements due to compatibility and interoperability requirements with the existing infrastructure. Only Redis or an authorized reseller can provide the necessary software maintenance. No other manufactures licenses are compatible, functional, or interoperable with the existing Redis based infrastructure. Software maintenance is required to ensure the Redis software in operation for DAS remains up-to-date. Only Redis or an authorized reseller can provide the maintenance due to the proprietary source code required to develop and implement software upgrades and updates. Should maintenance for the Redis software not be acquired, there is an immediate risk to the DAS application. Without the aforementioned proprietary source code, no source other than Redis and its authorized resellers can meet VA's needs. Redis is vital to VA for continued sustainment of the DAS production and test environments. Use of another software product would prohibit VA's ability to process Disability Questionnaires (DBQ) and Service Treatment Records (STR).

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this justification. Limited competition is anticipated for the required maintenance support. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), this action will be synopsisized and the justification will be made publicly available on the Federal Business Opportunities Page within 14 days of award. Additionally, in accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A) this justification will be submitted to all applicable NASA SEWP V GWAC holders along with the Request for Quotation in order to fully notify all interested parties.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will work with the program office to perform additional market research in a timely manner so that alternate solutions can be considered should they become available.

8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research in March 2017 to ascertain the ability of any other source to provide the aforementioned software maintenance. The research consisted of reviewing various software maintenance plans offered, specifically, Memcache and Oracle Berkeley. Based on the market research conducted by the Government's technical experts, it has been determined that no other brand of software maintenance can meet the Government's requirements due to the need to access the source code and other proprietary data of the existing RLEC software licenses and maintenance. Additionally, unauthorized software providers do not have access to the proprietary data of the software to be able to provide troubleshooting, updates, fixes, patches, and upgrades. Only Redis Labs or its authorized resellers have access to the source code of the software to provide the necessary maintenance support.

Market research was also conducted in April 2017 through the use of the Provider Lookup Tool on the NASA SEWP V GWAC web site. The research shows that there are a total of four NASA SEWP GWAC holders that can fulfill the Government's requirements. The breakdown per group is as follows: two vendors from Group B(2)

Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and two vendors from Group C, Small Business. Based on the results of the market research, there is reasonable expectation that sufficient competition exists among SDVOSB concerns in Group B(2). Therefore, the request for quotation for this requirement will be submitted to Group B(2) SDVOSB contract holders under North American Industry Classification System code 541519.

9. Other Facts: None

Jim Steele

Date: 05/03/2017

## Project Manager

Signature: 157432

James R. Steele

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Juan Quinones

Date: 5/3/17

## Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: 

Juan Quinones

Date: 5/3/17

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