JUSTIFICATION FOR SINGLE SOURCE AWARDS IAW FAR 13.106-1
(OVER MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD($3.5K) BUT NOT EXCEEDING THE SAT ($150K))

IAW FAR13.104, COs must promote competition to the maximum extent practicable to obtain supplies and services from the source whose offer is the most advantageous to the Government, considering the administrative cost of the purchase. When competition is not practicable, IAW FAR13.106-1(b), COs solicit from a single source for purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold. COs may solicit from one source if the CO determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available (e.g., urgency, exclusive licensing agreements, brand-name or industrial mobilization). IAW FAR13.106-3(b)(3),COs are required to include additional statements explaining the absence of competition (see 13.106-1 for brand name purchases) if only one source is solicited and the acquisition does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (does not apply to an acquisition of utility services available from only one source) or supporting the award decision if other than price-related factors were considered in selecting the supplier. This template when completed can be used to document single source awards IAW FAR13.106-3(b)(3). Note: Statements such as "only known source" or "only source which can meet the required delivery date" are inadequate to support a sole source purchase.

ACQUISITION PLAN ACTION ID:	1A. PROJECT/TASK No.	1B. ESTIMATED AMOUNT:
VA260-17-AP-7126		**$73,685.62**

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUPPLIES OR SERVICES REQUIRED AND THE INTENDED USE:

Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 20, Puget Sound Health Care System, 1660 S. Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108

Requirement: This requirement if for a Western Blot and Gel Documentation System.The MIRECC Laboratories require equipment to enable the study of proteins which requires the use of electricity to separate fragments based on size/charge and also require equipment to enable the study of proteins which requires multimodal documentation using a variety of light sources, filters, and high resolution scientific CCD cameras. This equipment will be used for VA and SIBCR funded research studies as well as non-funded Medical Student Research Training Program or MSRTP summer projects, MIRECC Fellow, NIH T32 Fellowship training, other graduate student work, and pilot work. The MIRECC is currently located in building 1, room B22 of VA Seattle-663 until the completion of the B101 Mental Health and Research Building (expected by the end of calendar year 2017). The equipment will then be moved to the MIRECC (3rd flr) in that building.

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS THAT LIMIT AVAILABILITY TO ONLY ONE SOURCE, WITH THE REASON NO OTHER SUPPLIES OR SERVICES CAN BE USED:

The BioRad ChemiDoc MP V3 Western Workflow Midi Gels is required to continue the established research protocol needs of the VISN 20 MIRECC. Components of this system provide critical and unique functions that ensure the generation of high-fidelity, low-variation data seamlessly interoperable with existing data similarly derived using Bio-Rad gel, documentation and analysis systems. Protein gel electrophoresis requires exacting buffer and composition requirements be met to ensure protocol reproducibility. The VISN 20 MIRECC requires the use of midi-format Criterion model precast gels for use in protein polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis to meet this need. MIRECC users have experience with a variety of non-criterion system and criterion system have generated the bulk of the existing data due to their ease and consistency of manufacture, use and transfer. The gels are required to meet the established needs of the department that utilize a variety of formats with varying number of wells, density gradients, buffers, pI, pH, and stain-free technologies to evaluate protein loading quality control. Stain-free technology is essential for QC purposes and downstream quantitation. The variation in well-size and volume provides adequate flexibility to achieve appropriate signal strength when visualizing gels and western blots under a variety of dynamic conditions. The Criterion midi-gels are further required for their size (to accommodate a greater number of samples

per run) and their high-performance, low-variation electrophoretic migration. These gels are then transferred to membranes. The nature of the high-volume work-flow of MIRECC labs requires at least 2 gels to be simultaneously transferred under exacting conditions to achieve demonstrated, equal transfer across the membrane surface with sample quantities as low as 1.25 ng, within protocol times of 3min, 7min, and 10min lengths. Gel transfer that do not meet these demands result in unreliable data, loss of resources and time and may contribute to the agency not meeting its requirements. The gels / transfers are then documented under various detection protocols for quantitation, presentation and archive. The ChemiDoc MP provides an industry-leading high signal to noise scientific camera (6 mp) with supercooled 16-bit data acquisition to provide high-fidelity CCD camera images required for weak chemiluminescent signals expected of 1.25ng quantities. To achieve this level of detection capacity, the CDMP resolves images at 6.45 × 6.45 µm pixel size allowing for differentiation of closely spaced bands on western blots or gel. This is combined with essential Peltier cooling to –30°C with absolute and regulated integration time to achieve quantitation of weak to strong chemiluminescent signals over 4+ orders of linear dynamic range. Further, this system achieves a broad image capture capacity spanning 7 different types of light sources to enable dynamic laboratory single and multiplex experiments. CDMP provides automated multiplex image analysis for Total Protein Normalization, thus eliminating the requirement to show loading control proteins on Western blots and reducing inter & intra-user variability in downstream analysis. Among the unique features of this system in regards to this function, the CDMP provides total protein normalization with stain-free technologies, which is required to prevent unseen bias generated by the normalization with single housekeeping proteins. For further error reduction, protocol consistency, automation and time reduction, the CDMP automates multichannel image viewing and color-coded analyses in during acquisition to generate multiplex image files for downstream use. For downstream data analysis and reporting requirements, the V3 system provides transparent image analysis software, with unlimited licenses, automatic generation of customizable reports, 16-bit and 8-bit tiff images with a one-click export required for our multiple and fluctuating pool of investigators. These features are required to provide fully auditable, publication-ready images and data analysis to meet the needs of users with various familiarity and expertise using such systems. No other system meets the totality of the departments requirements.

4. DESCRIPTION OF MARKET RESEARCH CONDUCTED AND RESULTS OR STATEMENT WHY IT WAS NOT CONDUCTED:

Market Research was conducted for the Western blot and gel documentation system with the Government's Required Salient Characteristics. A search to determine if this requirement could be set aside 100% for SDVOSB was conducted on VetBiz, SBA, and GSA. With the compiled list of SDVOSB's, a RFI was emailed with the required salient characteristics. A response was submitted from Franklin Young, a SDVOSB, and cut sheets were submitted. The Cut sheets submitted with an equal item being proposed where sent to Dr. James Meabon, requester of requirement, for an evaluation of the equal proposed. Upon technical review of the specs, Dr. Meabon determined that the equal proposal does not meet the required salient characteristics. All other responses indicated No Bid. A sources sought was then posted to FBO and set aside for VOSB. The Sources Sought Notice resulted in one response from Government Scientific Source, a VOSB, who could supply the brand name BIO RAD items with all the required salient characteristics. Government Scientific Source also provided a letter from manufacturer Bio Rad, indicating Government Scientific Source is the only source as an authorized distributor for this requirement. As a result Market Research concludes that the BIO-RAD Western Blot and Gel Documentation System should be Sole Sourced to Government Scientific Source.

5. Contracting Officer's Certification: Purchase is approved in accordance with FAR13.106-1(b). I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. Note: COs are required to make a determination of price reasonableness IAW FAR 13.106-3. See the Commercial Supply and Service SOP for Price Reasonableness templates.

Grace E. Kelly-Burnsworth 1384242

Digitally signed by Grace E. Kelly-Burnsworth 1384242
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Date: 2017.08.17 09:06:53 -04'00'

Signature: _____ Date: 17 August 2017

Name: Grace E Kelly-Burnsworth

Title: Contract Specialist NCO: PCAC