

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Justification for Single Source Awards IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#)
For
Over Micro-Purchase Threshold but Not Exceeding the SAT (\$150K)**

Acquisition Plan Action ID: VA258-18-AP-0284

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office 22-Gilbert, Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. The 2237 # for this acquisition is 678-18-2-8108-0021.
2. **Brief Description of Supplies/ Services required and the intended use/Estimated Amount:** This is a new requirement to purchase an Azure Biosystems C400 Western Blot Digital Analyzer. The items included in this purchase are the C400 Analyzer, a 1-year extended warranty, and 1 vial of chemiluminescent substrate.
3. **Unique characteristics that limit availability to only one source, with the reason no other supplies or services can be used:**
In accordance with FAR 13.106-1(b)(1)(i), this is a brand name justification for the purchase of an item peculiar to one manufacturer. The customer has identified the Azure Biosystems C400 Imaging System as the only item that can meet its need.

The customer is a research laboratory that conducts extensive analysis of proteins as a primary means of analyzing the effects of Nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase (Nampt) on lung fibrosis. One of the key methods for analyzing proteins is to use the western blot technique, which uses gels to isolate protein cultures and then uses dyes to stain the proteins for specific analysis. The study requires detailed imaging of the dyed proteins that can capture the results in multiple ways that helps identify the markers that the researchers are trying to find. The Azure Biosystems C400 Imaging System has all the requirements needed by the researchers to include blue and white light imaging, three fluorescent channels, portability and size, multiplex spectral imaging of dyes, field upgradability, direct image capture, high sensitivity lens, and a high resolution camera.

The customer reviewed other western dot digital imaging systems on the market, including the Odyssey Fc from Li-Cor, the Amersham Series from General Electric, the Fluorchem M from Protein Simple, and the Chemidod MP from BioRad. These systems are not capable of meeting all the necessary salient characteristics of the customer.

4. **Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:**
Market research was conducted by doing an internet search of western dot digital imaging systems on the market. The customer reviewed the specifications of the various imaging systems to identify the items that met all the necessary salient characteristics. Only the Azure Biosystems C400 Imaging System was found to meet the customer's requirement.

The manufacturer, Azure Biosystems, was contacted to get a list of all the authorized distributors for the imaging system. A total of 3 SDVOSB vendors can provide the item using a manufacturer-authorized distribution channel. This requirement will be a 100% set-aside for SDVOSB vendors.

VHAPM Part 813.106 Simplified Acquisition Procedures: Soliciting from a Single Source
Attachment 1: Single Source Justification for SAP under \$150K

- 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.*

Samuel Dustin
Contracting Officer

Date