

JUSTIFICATION
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
1701 Directors Blvd
Austin, TX 78744
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a brand name firm-fixed-price delivery order to be issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC).
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA requires 79 one-year perpetual licenses for ManagerPLus Enterprise Desktop server software. The total estimated price of this proposed action is [REDACTED], including a base year and two 12 month option periods.
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) 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 paragraph 8 of this justification, it was determined that limited competition is available for this procurement. The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) currently utilizes ManagerPlus products at 57 sites. The current NCA infrastructure is based on existing ManagerPlus software and VA requires support compatible with the existing infrastructure protocols and functionality for continued operational availability. There are no products that are currently compatible and interoperable with the existing VA software. In addition, Manager Plus Pro is on the approved list of software for VA network use. This solution would end the problem of standalone computers and their maintenance at over a third of VA's national cemeteries. The software will continue to prevent the loss of critical data while providing an enterprise solution to electronically tracking maintenance requirements at all of our cemeteries. It would be more effective to upgrade within the same products than run the risk of switching software platforms, which would require additional costs and time for training, time for implementation, and a new business strategy. Competing for new software would not result in savings, and the purchase of ManagerPlus brand name software is more advantageous to the Government.

MANAGERPLUS LICENSE

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. However, it was determined that limited competition is viable among resellers for these brand name items. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2), this action will be synopsized at award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and the justification will be made publicly available.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to learn if there are changes in the marketplace that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research in July of 2017, which consisted of a review of similar software, including Maximo, and AMES/MERS. Maximo is not able to meet VA needs to electronically track equipment maintenance. AMES/MERS is not an enterprise wide application and would require extensive separate coordination with each of the sites. Based on this research, the Government technical experts have determined ManagerPlus Pro is the only approved software that can meet the government's requirement.

The Contract Specialist (CS) conducted market research in October 2017 by using the NASA SEWP V GWAC Market Research and Request for Information tools to determine what vendors are capable of meeting the requirement. Based on this market research, the CS found service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB) interested and capable of meeting the full requirement.

9. Other Facts: None.