

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
1701 Directors Blvd
Austin, TX 78744
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a brand name Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP) Delivery/Task Order (DO) to be issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC).
3. Description of Supplies or Services: The Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Information and Technology, Financial Services Center needs brand name Hewlett Packard (HP) hardware and software maintenance. The period of performance shall be March 01, 2018, through February 28, 2019. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting this exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C 4106(c)(2) as implemented by 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 the market research detailed below, the Government anticipates limited competition for the aforementioned brand name requirement. This is a brand name justification in support of FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. This acquisition specifies that HP brand name warranty and maintenance support be provided. VA does not possess the proprietary technical data required to maintain and upgrade the HP server infrastructure that has been in use at the FSC for several years. Failure to acquire the warranty and maintenance support for these appliances would leave VA without the necessary certified support needed if/when system problems occur. The procurement of new servers rather than renewing the warranty and maintenance support would result in substantial duplication of costs that would not be recovered through a new competitive acquisition.
6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research paragraph 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)(ii)(D), this action will be synopsisized, and the justification will be made publicly available on the Federal

Business Opportunities Page because the total estimated price is greater than the simplified acquisition threshold.

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

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted in December 2017 to ascertain if other products could satisfy VA's requirements. Specifically, VA subject matter experts looked at Dell Enterprise Solutions and Integrated Business Machines (IBM) brands and determined that neither product could seamlessly integrate into the existing VA network. Based upon this market research, it is in VA's best interest to continue to maintain the existing HP brand name server, which meets all of FSC's current needs, rather than replacing them with brand new appliances.

VA technical personnel also conducted market research in February 2017 by using the NASA SEWP V GWAC Provider Lookup and Market Research tools to determine what vendors are capable of providing the full requirement. Based on this market research, the CS found multiple vendors capable of meeting the full requirement.

9. Other Facts: None.