

## 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 a two month, Firm-Fixed-Price modification to Task Order (TO) VA11816F10210002 issued under the Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation (T4NG) Contract VA118-16-D-1021 with Kforce Government Services. This modification will add a two month optional task under the existing Task Order to provide for transition support so all in progress data analysis projects, analytic tools, data governance, in progress deliverables, and resident knowledge can successfully be transitioned to an incoming contractor.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to provide transition support so all in progress data analysis projects, analytic tools, data governance, in progress deliverables, and resident knowledge can successfully be transitioned to an incoming contractor. The current TO provides contractor support for the Financial Services Center in the developing and deploying analytic products covering the full spectrum of analytics, which includes the (1) use, development, deployment, configuration and customization of business intelligence and analytics software, (2) use of statistical/programming language, to include Statistical Analysis System, R, and Python, (3) integration of statistical/quantitative results into visualization models, (4) use of contemporary analytic methods in loss prevention, (5) establishing and developing performance management metrics, (6) providing enterprise data governance and data management support, and (7) deployment and management of analytic solutions across a large federal organization. The current TO does not include transition support. The current TO was competitively awarded on February 10, 2017 on a Firm Fixed Price basis. On December 5, 2017 VA determined that a re-compete of Task Order VA11816F10210002 would be required to accurately represent the required Data Analytic workload. There is a large inflow of projects that require data analytics support and are beyond the scope of the original TO to such an extent that a re-compete is in the Government's best interest. In support of this effort to re-compete the revised requirements, VA will require an additional optional transition task to ensure that current analytic products, tools, governance and knowledge are successfully transitioned from the incumbent contractor to any new contractor. The transition support is being added as an optional task to ensure that if the current contractor is the successful Offeror for the re-competed effort that the Government will not be required to pay for transition support it would not need. The total estimated price for this proposed modification is
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

## Justification for an Exception to Fair Opportunity - Data Analytics Transition Support

providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized.”

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is Kforce Government Solutions Inc., 2750 Prosperity Ave Suite 300. Fairfax, Virginia, 22031.

Kforce currently provides the Data Analytics Support for FSC under the current TO. KForce has successfully completed several data projects and is currently in progress on several other data projects. On December 5, 2017 it was determined the action would need to be re-competed as the number of Data Analysis projects that are in current work backlog and anticipated additional workload to be added to the backlog has exceeded the original intent of the Task Order. In order to ensure that this re-competed Task Order is successful, the incoming contractor will need to be able to seamlessly begin work on in progress data projects and will need to be integrated into the current VA data analytic tools, processes, and governance. Due to this need, this modification will add transition support to the current TO to ensure that Kforce will provide all current completed and in-progress deliverables and projects to the new contractor, and ensures Kforce can provide training to the new contractor on the current data analytic processes that Kforce has put in place. Without this transition support there is a large risk that VA tools, and work in progress will not be understood by the incoming contractor, and all progress on current projects will be lost or need to be re-developed. Further without transition of the current contractors' Data Governance process, there is a large risk that the new vendor will lose required data or required control measures necessary for proper analysis. Only Kforce has the resident knowledge of their developed governance process, the methods that have been used for current data analysis projects, and the current use and configuration of data analysis tools to the level of granularity required for an efficient handoff of the FSC workload. If this effort is re-competed without the transition support, it is anticipated it will take not less than five months for a new contractor to fully understand VA data analytics architecture and tool configuration causing a loss in project schedule and FSC resources. Further, it will take no less than five months for any contractor to understand what methods are utilized for active data analysis projects or potentially several projects may have to be totally restarted as the methods cannot be fully discovered without input from the outgoing contractor. Adding the proposed transition support will ensure that this resident knowledge will be passed to any future contractor without loss of information or delay to schedules.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional potential sources that could provide the seamless transition while the competitive procurement is solicited and awarded. There is no competition for this acquisition. 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 within 14 days of award on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) Page.

## Justification for an Exception to Fair Opportunity - Data Analytics Transition Support

7. Actions to Increase Competition: Barriers to future competition are not anticipated. A competitive award is anticipated on or before August 30, 2018 and future acquisitions will be awarded on a competitive basis.

8. Market Research: Market Research was performed in December 2017 for the re-compete effort. The Government posted a Request for Information on the Acquisition Task Order Management System to all T4NG contract holders as well as to the Federal Business Opportunities website. While sources were found that could meet VA's requirements for the re-compete, there is no source that possesses the requisite knowledge of the current data analytic processes and Data Governance process that Kforce has put in place other than KForce. None of the respondents to the RFIs, other than KForce, are currently responsible for managing the breadth of the data analysis requirements ; therefore, none are qualified to provide meaningful transition support to the incoming contractor other than KForce. Based on market research, there will be competition for the re-compete of this effort but only KForce, as the incumbent contractor, possesses the technical expertise and experience with data analytics processes and procedures specific to FSC to successfully transition this information to the incoming contractor under the re-compete effort.

9. Other Facts: None.

## Justification for an Exception to Fair Opportunity - Data Analytics Transition Support