

LIMITED-SOURCES JUSTIFICATION

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 contract action is for a firm-fixed price delivery order for Statistical Analytical Services (SAS) software license renewals and maintenance support for the VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI) environment in support of data analysis activities serving the users within VINCI. The purpose of this order is to renew and expand existing licenses and allow for support serving the SAS users. The SAS software is located and operating at the Austin Information Technology Center (AIRC). The support is vital to maintain the SAS installation so that researchers can use the software to query data to improve Veteran care outcomes. An option is included to enhance the VINCI SAS environment by renewing the SAS JMP data analytics and SAS JMP PRO predictive analytics software solutions. The proposed effort will be awarded under the General Services Administration (GSA) Information Technology Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Number 70 to Executive Information Systems, LLC. (EIS), located at 6901 Rockledge Dr., Suite 600, Bethesda, Maryland.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The VINCI program is a partnership between the VA Office of Information and Technology and the Veterans Health Administration Office of Research and Development. VINCI provides the storage and server technologies to securely host suites of medical and clinical research databases integrated from select national data sources. Researchers access the data, along with the tools for reporting and analysis, in a secure, virtual working environment. SAS Grid software is part of the VINCI program mission to provide custom software tools to be used by researchers within VINCI's secure computing environments. Maintenance of the existing licenses is required to receive software upgrades and support. The total estimated price of the proposed firm-fixed price delivery order for the SAS JMP data analytics and SAS JMP PRO predictive analytics software solutions is \$1,000,000.00. The period of performance shall be 6/30/2018 to 6/29/2019. JMP is software that uses a graphical interface to display and analyze data. The period of performance shall be 6/30/2018 to 6/29/2019.
4. Authority: This acquisition is conducted under the authority of the Multiple-Award Schedule Program. The specific authority providing for a limited source award is Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B), "Only one source is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized."

VINCI FY18 SAS License & Maintenance

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The VA requires SAS brand name software for the following reasons: SAS enables VA researchers to analyze and extract meaningful information from extremely large data sets (up to five terabytes); only SAS has the performance and capability for handling the vast amounts of data required by the VA; and only SAS has sufficient support to ensure the VA has the required availability and reliability of the SAS Grid. While there are currently other software products available that claim to have similar capabilities, such as those identified in paragraph 8, the Government has determined that these software products will not meet the Government's needs for data availability, reliability and product support of the existing SAS licenses. Additionally, the VINCI environment contains a large body of code written in the SAS proprietary language/code. Because this code will only run in the SAS software environment, substituting an equivalent product would render this existing code useless, thereby negatively impacting the research studies using this code and the Veterans whose care the studies seek to improve.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are provided in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. This justification shall be published along with FAR 8.405-6(b)(3). Additionally, in accordance with FAR 5.301 and 8.406-6(a)(2), the resulting notice of award will be synopsisized and this justification will be made publicly available on the Federal Business Opportunities Page within 14 days after award.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will work with the program office to perform additional market research so that other solutions can be considered.

8. Market Research: Market research efforts were conducted by VA technical experts from VINCI in January 2017 and revalidated in May 2018. The market research included a thorough review of various websites and trade publications and discussions with data managers and researchers in the VA to ascertain if there are other similar items that can meet the Government's requirements. Specifically, VA technical experts from VINCI researched software from Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) in and received a quote of \$1.5M for 25 user licenses for 1 year. Stata and R will not run SAS code, neither will Oracle, nor Informatica; all were carefully researched by examining the web sites and white papers associated with the flagship products. None of these four software packages offer interoperability and code compatibility with the current VINCI platform. Only SAS software meets all the VA's functional needs as described in the previous paragraphs. The four aforementioned software products offer a limited array of analytics and none of the four offers a grid-enabled high-performance computing environment, which is crucial to meeting the Government's requirements.

VINCI FY18 SAS License & Maintenance

Based on this market research, it was determined that only SAS software can meet all the Government's requirements. EIS is the only authorized reseller of SAS software and maintenance. At the time of the writing of this Justification, there have been no new entrants to the marketplace that can provide these services.

9. Other Facts: None.

10. Technical and Requirements Certification: I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in this justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Jack Bates

Director, BISL

Date: Jack M Bates
Signature: 406034

Digitally signed
by Jack M Bates
406034
Date: 2018.06.20
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11. Determination of Best Value: I hereby determine that the proposed contract action will represent the best value to the Government consistent with FAR 8.404(d). GSA has already determined that the prices on the FSS contract are fair and reasonable. Adequate price competition is expected as the Solicitation will be made available to all small business FSS holders under Information Technology Schedule 70, SIN132-51. Additionally, price discounts will be sought.

Brett Schwerin

Procuring Contracting Officer

Date: 6/20/18

Signature: [Signature]

12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Procuring Contracting Officer

Date: 6/20/18
Signature: [Signature]