

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Procurement Acquisition and Logistics
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, NJ 07724

2. Description of Action:

The proposed action is for a firm-fixed price (FFP) task order (TO) to be issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Government wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC). This procurement is for professional BlackBerry services to specifically include Blackberry Enterprise Mobility Suite Collaborations Edition software and Blackberry Designated Senior Technical Analyst support.

3. Description of Supplies or Services:

The proposed action is for Brand Name BlackBerry Professional Services and technical support as well as of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) connector software release for VA. This software release is required for VA security posture on mobile devices. This effort will acquire Blackberry Designated Service Technical Analyst (DSTA), a professional service offered commercially by Blackberry which provides a primary point of contact within Blackberry Direct Advance Response Team (DART). This support will allow for VA to more rapidly address VA specific software issues. To support VA's new e-mail infrastructure with PIV only Enforcement (PoE) and to meet Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) 2.0 requirements, it is necessary for VA to implement Certificate Based Authentication (CBA) where the certificate will be delivered to the device via an automated secure connection. Blackberry has built a solution for PoE and has agreed to release an updated software version to VA prior to the commercial release. The total estimated value of this proposed action is inclusive of the 12-month base period and two 12-month option periods.

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) Paragraph 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 section 8 of this document, it was determined that limited competition is available among authorized resellers of

Blackberry Professional Support Services. Only Blackberry or an authorized reseller can provide the necessary associated technical support as the Blackberry software's source code is proprietary and access to this source code is required to develop and implement software updates and associated maintenance. Further, only Blackberry or an authorized reseller has access to the Blackberry software accounts for VA users. Blackberry software is currently deployed on over 40,000 VA mobile devices and the software is currently meeting VA needs. The VA currently owns the requisite Blackberry software licenses and utilizing any other software would result in an duplication of implementation costs) and require a data migration of over six months.

This is a brand name justification in accordance with FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. More than one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required, but fair opportunity is limited by restriction to a brand name. VA has been using BlackBerry software since 2010 and currently uses it to support e-mail on 40,000 mobile devices. In order to upgrade the current software for PoE and to meet TIC 2.0 requirements, VA requires a software upgrade as well as professional services and support from BlackBerry. Only BlackBerry or one of its authorized resellers can provide software modifications, software updates, and professional services and support for the software currently on VA mobile devices, because they own the proprietary source code required to develop and implement software changes and updates. BlackBerry brand software licenses are currently owned by VA and they meet VA's messaging requirements and therefore VA requires proprietary support to this operational system.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition:

Market research was conducted, details of which are in section eight of this justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers for BlackBerry Professional Services. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), notice of award of this action will be synopsisized and this justification will be made publicly available within 14 days of award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A), this justification will be posted with the request for quotation on the NASA SEWP V GWAC website to notify all interested parties.

7. Actions to Increase Competition:

Although the Government is limiting competition as a result of specifying brand name BlackBerry Professional Services, there are authorized resellers of the required support that are current NASA SEWP V GWAC holders. Limited competition for this requirement among these vendors is anticipated. Finally, in order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the Government's technical experts will continue to perform market research to determine if any products become available that will enable future requirements to be competed.

8. Market Research:

The Government's technical experts conducted Market Research in Feb 2018. There is currently no comparable software or professional support services available for BlackBerry mobile devices. The enterprise mobility team researched Skype for Business and Google Hangouts for mobile users and determined that though both software suites have capability to provide instant messaging service, they cannot support TIC requirements set forth by VA nor do they have the capability to support Certificate Based Authentication. As such, other instant messaging apps do not meet VA requirements, and moreover, neither of these providers would be able to support the Blackberry licenses VA currently owns, as access to the Blackberry software is proprietary to Blackberry. Market Research will continue to be conducted in the future to determine if comparable software is available. Additional market research was conducted in May 2018, via a request for information posted on the NASA SEWP V GWAC, and through this research it was identified that five authorized resellers can provide the Blackberry Professional Services, inclusive of two Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small-Business providers. Therefore, there is reasonable expectation that limited competition exists on the NASA SEWP V GWAC amongst Group B2, SDVOSB concerns, for the BlackBerry Technical support.

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.

Date: _____

IT Specialist

Signature: _____

11. Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on adequate price competition as there are multiple resellers of the required brand name BlackBerry Professional Services that hold NASA SEWP V GWACs. Additionally, the NASA SEWP V GWAC prices have previously been determined fair and reasonable.

Date: _____

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: _____

12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed \$700,000, the certification below required by FAR 6.303-2(b)(12) serves as approval.

Date: _____

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: _____