

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
1701 Director's Blvd.
Austin, TX 78744
2. Description of Action: This proposed action is for a firm-fixed-price purchase order with DF/Net Research Inc for iDataFax Server Software License.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: VA West Haven-Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center (WH-CSPCC) has a requirement for iDataFax server software license and 5 concurrent seats to allow WH-CSPCC full license configuration to the Datafax license server hosted at Palo Alto Server 3 vhalmpdf4 running DF2016 to use and have technical support from DF/Net Research Inc. The request for the connection to the Datafax licensed server will allow study participating sites to use electronic data entry instead of the traditional paper-based data collection method. New applications can no longer be developed on WH-CSPCC's current legacy electronic data capture system. The total estimated price of the proposed action is [REDACTED] to be delivered within 30 days of award and includes a 12-month term.
4. Statutory Authority: In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 13.106-1(b)(1)(i), "Contracting officers may solicit from one source if the contracting officer determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available..." for purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Based on the market research described in section 8, only DF/Net Research Inc. can meet the Government's requirements. DF/Net Research Inc. owns the rights to all proprietary program language and intellectual property of all software products under the DataFax umbrella. Therefore, only DF/Net Research Inc. can provide the additional software licenses, maintenance, support and yearly license renewals. iDataFax is currently in use at the VA Palo Alto CSPCC and was found to be an effective electronic data capture system for the CSP Centers to use. This software currently resides on a server for the Palo Alto CSPCC however there are not enough seats available to accommodate the West Haven CSPCCs' clinical trial research needs. This acquisition will allow the seats to be increased on Palo Alto CSPCC's server for the West Haven CSPCC study requirements and will provide software and application developer support for the Center. The iDataFax software provides the tools for a data collection system and a data management system. The acquisition of iDataFax software will allow West Haven CSPCC to improve the current data management systems to include an effective OIT-compliant electronic data capture system for use in VA national clinical trials. Using the same system as the Palo Alto CSPCC will provide CSP the capability of improving site management on a national level as well as help provide uniform data collection tools to staff at participating site, and thus reduce training costs. Site personnel working on clinical trial projects often move from one CSP study to another or serve as back up at the VAMC participating in these trials. It is the intention of West Haven CSPCC to

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initiate newly assigned clinical trials to the iDataFax system. It is not cost-effective to change the current data management system for ongoing trials. Some of the advantages of iDataFax are a real time validation component to check user data at time of data entry; provides a platform for clinical site personnel and the West Haven CSPCC to resolve data issues; provide the West Haven CSPCC the ability to perform real-time monitoring of study progress/status and its participants; and it contains a reporting tool for analysis of the collected data. The DF/Net Research Inc., is the sole supplier of iDataFax software products and maintenance.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Recent market research conducted, detailed of which are in section 8 of justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. Additionally, the proposed action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) Page in accordance with FAR 5.201. Any proposals that are received shall be evaluated. In accordance with FAR 5.301, this action will be synopsisized and the justification will be made publicly available on the FBO Page within 14 days of award of the order.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: 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 ascertain if there are changes in the marketplace that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by VA CSPCC's staff during the time frame of April 24 – May 2, 2018, utilizing the NASA SEWP Market Research as well as by researching GSA Advantage. D/F Net Research, Inc., has confirmed that there are no authorized resellers for iDataFax software (see Tab P02 of the contract file). GSA Advantage did not provide other vendors for this software. DataLabs and MediData were the only other products with similar capabilities; however, neither could satisfy VA CSPCC requirements for hybrid fax/electronic data capture, capabilities, and support. Only iDataFax system provides both faxing and electronic data capture, a robust edit check language, and SAS data export tools for managing, analyzing and visualizing collected clinical data. Since the Palo Alto CSPCC utilizes the DataFax system and has the experience of developing CSP trials, we have the knowledge and experience from the technical staff at the VA Palo Alto CSPCC to validate that this system complies with the VA and CSPCC electronic data capture system requirements. We have existing knowledge that the software will interact with existing statistical software used at the Center, i.e., SAS. Only iDataFax licenses and maintenance with DF/Net Research Inc. can meet the Government's needs. In June 2018, the contract specialist conducted market research using web searches, and by searching for resellers on National Aeronautics and Space Administration Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Government Wide Acquisition Contract. Searches for iDataFax resellers did not yield any results. DF/NET Research Inc., representative confirmed they do not authorized third party agreements or allow any resellers.

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9. Interested Sources: None

