

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval
Under

Simplified Acquisition Procedures (SAP)

Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$3K to \$150K)

For Restricting Competition under FAR 13.106-1(b)(1) "Single Source"

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office (NCO) 20, for the Puget Sound Health Care System, 1660 S. Columbian Way, Seattle, Washington 98108-1587.
2. **Nature of the Action Being Processed:** This procurement is in support of the VA merit review for the research project entitled, "Mechanisms of Synaptic Integration in Central Neurons".

This action will be awarded as a new firm-fixed-price contract.

3. **Description of Supplies or Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** This procurement under PR # 663-12-4-2163-1260 is for technical research services provided by the Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington. The University of Washington will provide services to the VAPSHCS Rehabilitation Research and Development Center of Excellence for Limb Loss Prevention and Prosthetic Engineering.

The contractor's responsibilities include:

performance of research experiments, data analysis, and production of material for submission for publication in peer reviewed journals; making electrophysiological recordings, and performing anatomical analysis on the central nervous system of animal models; related cell biology laboratory work.

These experiments are designed to determine normal and pathological mechanisms in cortical circuits particularly as they relate to neural encoding, sensory perception, motor function and mechanisms of epilepsy.

The total estimated value of this acquisition is \$39,500.00.

The period of performance is Date of Award – 30 September 2012.

There are no option periods.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Restriction in Competition:** The statutory authority for restricting competition under SAP, or Single Sourcing, for acquisitions under \$150,000 or Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) is 41 U.S.C. 253(c), as implemented by FAR 13.106-1(b)(1). The specific reason for restricting competition is grant funding specific to this project only. Utilizing an organization other than for the Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington could cause problems with data integrity and overall project

viability. This justification is where in accordance with FAR 6.001(a), acquisitions conducted under FAR 13 for SAP are exempt from the requirements of FAR Part 6, but still require a justification using the format of FAR 6.303-2, IAW the VHA SOP for Other Than Full And Open Competition dated 3-22-2011.

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**
The contractor possesses expertise, equipment, and facilities compatible with those of the Principal Investigator and can ensure data quality, integrity and experimental consistency with VA grant requirements. The Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington will be responsible for executing all requested duties. The Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington is the only source with the requisite knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience to perform the requirements. The success of these studies and the fulfillment of the Government's interests are contingent upon the knowledge of the Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington in performing these studies.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to Ensure that Offers are Solicited from As Many Potential Sources as Deemed Practicable IAW FAR 13.104:** In accordance with FAR 5.202 and VAAR 806.302-5(a)(2), this requirement is not required to be publicized as it was accepted as an unsolicited research proposal. Under the Department of Veterans Affairs, Research and Development approved grant "Mechanisms of Synaptic Integration in Central Neurons" funded for the period Date of Award - September 30, 2012.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable – IAW FAR 13.106-3:** Pricing techniques as described in 13.106-3 will be utilized to determine fair and reasonable pricing. The anticipated dollar value for the contract action is for \$39,500.00. This price is in accordance with the established price schedule agreed upon between the contractor and the Government laboratory. Cost or pricing data will not be required.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or Statement of Reasons Market Research was not conducted (FAR 10):** No market research was performed based upon the justification that the contractor is written into a federally funded grant. The grant number is A6973R.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Restriction of Competition:** Utilizing an organization other than the Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington could cause faulty analysis and corrupt the study.

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:

A sources sought was not issued due to the exceptions cited In accordance with FAR 5.202 and VAAR 806.302-5(a)(2), this requirement is not required to be publicized as it was accepted as a research proposal. No sources expressed any interest in this project.

11. Statement of Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making Subsequent Acquisitions for the Supplies or Services Required: No actions are planned. Funding and grant work is specific to the Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington conducting this study.

12. Requirements Certification - IAW FAR 6.303-2(c): I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a bonafide need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

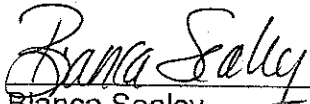


Charles Keelin
Administrative Officer, R&D

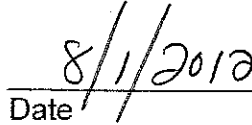
7/31/12
Date

13. Approvals IAW VHA SOP 3.22.11:

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification: (required)** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



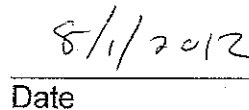
Blanca Sealey
Contracting Officer
NCO 20 Services Acquisitions Team


Date

- b. **NCM/PCM/DESIGNEE:** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and recommend approval for other than full and open competition.



NCO 20 Services Team Manager
David Stokes


Date