

**SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION FOR
ACQUISITIONS UNDER THE SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD**

1. In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation 13.106-1(b)(1), I hereby determine that the CEB Leadership Council membership is available from only one source, and competition is precluded for the reasons indicated below. There are no substitutes available.
2. This acquisition is restricted to the following source:

Company: Gartner (formerly CEB, Inc.)
<https://www.cebglobal.com/>

3. The CEB Leadership Council membership is estimated to cost \$190,442.72 and is required for the following period of performance:

Base: 08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019

Option Year 1: 08/01/2019 – 07/31/2020

Option Year 2: 08/01/2020 – 07/31/2021

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Office of Internal Audit and Risk Assessments (IARA) is seeking to establish an annual CEB Leadership Council membership with Gartner (formerly CEB, Inc. or Corporate Executive Board) to stay abreast of research, education, and evolving metrics performance measures that could ultimately impact Compliance Programs throughout VHA, specifically the Office of Internal Audit and Risk Assessment (IARA). IARA is a newly established office and is seeking out ways to improve VHA by researching best practices throughout industry. IARA has been tasked with gathering data and research to develop and sustain new processes by providing VHA with the highest levels of independence and objectivity, including reviewing the way VHA's first and second lines of defense are achieving their objectives of managing risk and ensuring that proper internal controls are in place.

IARA serves as VHA's coordinating office for VA's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) program, develops and maintains the ERM infrastructure, promotes a risk-aware culture, and leads VHA in aligning ERM frameworks, tools and learning resources. IARA is also the executive agent for VHA's Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (ARCC), which provides the administration with governance, strategic guidance and direction for all VHA internal audit, risk assessment and compliance activities.

As a result of this membership the IARA will have access to:

- a. Hundreds of interviews and thousands of pages of syndicated studies available to members only. This research allows IARA to tap into the learning curves of other government agencies and private corporations to assimilate those ideas into their day-to-day operations.

- b. Rigorous demonstration of the best practices produces in the industry, concrete examples of what's working for Fortune 500 companies, how it was done, and careful analysis of what actual success looks like with large businesses and corporations.
- c. Unlimited access to tools, templates, online support, workshops, meetings, newsletters, and training to an unlimited number of users in VHA. Any employee within VHA would be able to access this tool at any time.

In addition to IARA, the 200+ personnel in the Office of Quality, Safety and Value (QSV) will be able to utilize this subscription to assist in the research, gathering of data, and analyzing industry practices to ensure every aspect of the Veterans experience with VHA Healthcare is high quality and seamless. Without this subscription, VHA will not possess critical benchmarking resources that the CEB Leadership Council membership provides to improve its processes and advance as the nation's largest healthcare provider.

QSV leadership and employees have access to thousands of white papers regarding audits and risk, bench marking materials, position descriptions to assist in classifying new positions, consultation from Subject Matter Experts within the industry when expert advice is needed, along with review of internal draft documents.

- 4. All content produced by Gartner, is proprietary and subject to copyright and other intellectual property restrictions. Gartner's content is available through their individual CEB Leadership Council websites and are intended to be used by clients for internal business purposes only. Additionally, there are no other retail sellers of any CEB Leadership Council membership services.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that statements checked and information provided above are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. In accordance with FAR 13.106-1(b)(1). The facts of this acquisition preclude the use of full and open competition.

