

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Brand Name Justification IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#)
For
Over Micro-Purchase Threshold but Not Exceeding the SAT (\$250K)

Acquisition Plan Action ID: [REDACTED]

- Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 19, VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center
- Brief Description of Supplies/ Services required and the intended use/Estimated Amount:**
Freedom EVO Robotic liquid handling system from Tecan U.S. for use at the Denver Research. Estimated amount is [REDACTED]
- Unique characteristics that limit availability to only one manufacturer, with the reason no other manufacturer can be used:**
The liquid handling system is needed as it performs thousands of very precise, accurate, and reproducible aliquots by pipetting. Our primary need for the instrument is for high throughput single cell DNA library preparations. It would take an individual hundreds of hours to perform the same tasks and the reproducibility would not be high due to inevitable human error. An individual doing this repetitive process is not effective or efficient.

Tecan U.S. is the only brand that has been validated compatible for use with the Infinium (Illumina proprietary) library platform which is what our researchers use and is the only platform for our existing Illumina NexSeq DNA sequencing instrument.
- Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:**
Significant Market Research on GSA, FPDS, VIP, and market inquiries were performed, including critical examination of automated liquid handling systems from Beckman Coulter, Perkin Elmer, Eppendorf, and Thermo Fisher. These are the only other vendors who provide this highly specialized technical equipment. The Tecan system is the only compatible system able to integrate with Illumina Library preparation systems approaches and flexibility in the system programming to accommodate different library preparation procedures. The Tecan system can also be programmed for liquid handling for other complex processes including RNA flow cytometry and related applications. Thus, the system is specifically designed to support sequencing library prep on the Illumina sequencing platform but also offers flexibility to support other core equipment processes at the VA research facility. Because of these key features, the Tecan system can be utilized by a larger number of researchers, and also prevents substantial duplication of cost that could not be recovered through competition.
- Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition**
Novel biomedical laboratory and clinical science research is a priority for Veterans health care. Core equipment is vital to supporting the needs of our local investigators, as no individual laboratory can support the cost of core sequencing instrumentation.

VHAPM Part 813.106 Simplified Acquisition Procedures
Attachment 1: Brand Name Justification for SAP under \$250K

6. **Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide 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.

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Title]

Administrative Officer, Research
VAECHCS

[Redacted Date]

Date

7. **Approvals:**

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification:** *Purchase is approved in accordance with FAR13.106-1(b). I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.*
- b. **Division or Branch Chief/Designee (Required over \$3K, but not exceeding \$250K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Title]

Supply 1 Branch Chief
NCO 19

[Redacted Date]

Date