

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval (J&A)

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition (>\$250K to \$700K)

Acquisition Plan Action ID: VA260-18-AP-5666

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 20, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** 663-18-3-8141-0243.

This is a request for other than full and open competition for scientific technical services to provide MRI brain scans for the Puget Sound VA Healthcare Systems Research & Development department. Dr. Elaine Peskind will be the VA Principal Investigator. This action will be a new Firm-Fixed Price contract with a total estimated value of \$643,328.00.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**

The contract with the University of Washington, School of Medicine's Diagnostic Imaging Sciences Center (DISC) will be to perform MRI brain scans on veterans who have suffered multiple concussions and/or multiple mild traumatic brain injuries (TBI) during their time in military service.

The MRI brain scans are part of a long-term research project headed by Dr. Elaine Peskind, VA Principle Investigator, to track the long-term effects of multiple mild TBI's and concussions on the brain.

4. **tatutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**

FAR 13.5 – Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items: This procurement is for research of the long-term effects of mild Traumatic brain injuries and concussions to veterans by performing MRI brain scans in accordance with FAR 13.5 Simplified Procedures for certain Commercial Items and specifically FAR 13.501 Special Documentation Requirements, where acquisitions conducted under Simplified Acquisitions Procedures are exempt for the requirements of FAR Part 6.

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 University of Washington's DISC is uniquely qualified since they have been providing the MRI brain scans for over 10 years on the veterans who are part of this long-term research

project. To maintain consistency with the on-going imaging of the veteran's brain scans, they need to be done at the same facility to minimize discrepancies in the various images.

6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:

There is no possibility of other sources for this contract, due to the fact the research project has been going on for over 10 years, and the Government needs to maintain continuity of services for the MRI brain scans.

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:

The pricing is based on established industry standards in this field of expertise for MRI imaging of brains. The hourly rate plus overhead, is the same as what University of Washington's Department of Radiology would charge any other non-profit or for-profit organization.

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:

There is a Medical Affiliation Agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs, Puget Sound VA Healthcare System and the University of Washington, School of Medicine. Per OSDDBU Small Business Policy Memo, dated 22 June 2016, and VA Directive 1663, para 6.h. dated 10 August 2006, OSDDBU authorizes an exception to the small business requirement when research is in conjunction with an authorized affiliate. Because of the OSDDBU waiver, no other market research was performed.

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:

This research will be funded by VA Program 822 Research and Development allocation for FY 2018 and future (option) years.

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

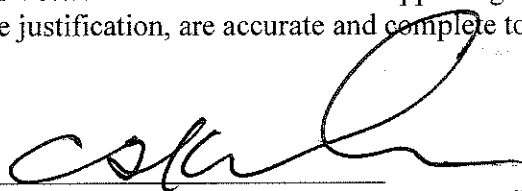
No other sources expressed interest except the University of Washington, School of Medicine.

11. A Statement of the 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:

To maintain continuity of service and minimize quality control issues, the MRI brain scan service must continue with the University of Washington's, School of Medicine for this on-going research project. There are currently no other options for this service.

12. 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.


Name: Charles Keelin Date: 9/7/18
Title: Administrative Officer, R&D
Facility: VA Puget Sound Health Care System

13. Approvals in accordance with the VHAPM, Part 806.3 OFOC SOP.

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

Lisa Spiral O'Neil
Contracting Officer
VISN 20, Services 2, Acquisitions Team

Date:

- b. **One Level Above the Contracting Officer (Required over SAT but not exceeding \$700K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

Karen Dailey
Branch Chief, Services 2 Team
Network Contracting Office 20 (NCO 20)

Date: