

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Justification and Approval (J&A)**  
**For**  
**Other Than Full and Open Competition (>SAT)**

**Acquisition Plan Action ID:** VA248-18-AP-1427

**1. Contracting Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Orlando VA Healthcare System  
Network Contracting Activity 8 (NCO 8)  
13800 Veterans Way  
Orlando, FL 32827

**Requesting Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Orlando VA Healthcare System  
Library (142D)  
13800 Veterans Way  
Orlando, FL 32827

**Transaction No:** 675-19-1-2226-0001

**2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:**

This is a firm fixed price contract for electronic medical library subscription. The award will be for (1) Base Year and (4), (1) Year Options. The old contract expires on 09/30/2018

**FAR13.5 Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items:**

This procurement is for Electronic Medical Library Subscription 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 Acquisition Procedures are exempt from the requirements of FAR Part 6, but still require a justification using the format of FAR 6.303-2.

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

EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) is a powerful online reference system of locally-indexed metadata that serves as the foundation of EBSCO's Complete Discovery Solution. EDS provides access to an institution's entire collection via a single, customizable entry point; it offers a variety of proprietary full text databases and popular databases from leading information providers.

EBSCO Health Databases solutions are a critical component within the Orlando VA Healthcare's academic library system. The system provides direct access to sources such as: Newspaper Source,

Health Source: Consumer Edition, Nursing Reference Center Plus, Alt-HealthWatch, and Medline Complete via the EBSCOhost proprietary search platform. EBSCO Health Database access provides a combination of content and technology, while addressing the needs of its users.

Although the VA National Library is consistently being updated, the EBSCO products being purchased with this acquisition are not part of the VA National Library (See attached email).

**The Estimated Cost for EBSCO Health Databases is as follows:**

EBSCO Health Databases		
October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019	Base Year	\$ 46,118.00
October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020	Option Year 1	\$ 49,347.00
October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021	Option Year 2	\$ 52,801.00
October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022	Option Year 3	\$ 56,498.00
October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023	Option Year 4	\$ 60,452.00
	Total	\$265,216.00

POC: Heather Beardsley, Account Executive, EBSCO Health  
 10 Estes Street, P.O. Box 682, Ipswich, MA 01938  
 Office: (800)653-2726 (x286)

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

- (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
- (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
- (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
- (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
- (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
- (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
- (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;

**FAR13.5 Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items:**

The authority for applying the Simplified Procedures for Commercial Items of FAR 13.5 is 41 U.S.C. 1901 and is implemented by for restricting competition on this procurement via FAR 13.106-1(b)(2).

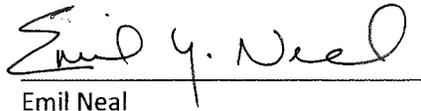
**5. Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**

EBSCO Health is the sole provider of EBSCO Discovery Services, Newspaper Source, Health Source: Consumer Edition, CINAHL Complete, Nursing Reference Center Plus, Alt-HealthWatch, Medline Complete via the EBSCOhost® proprietary search platform.

The EBSCO Electronic Medical Library is a highly specialized product/service follow on contract. There is a great potential for substantial duplication of costs that are not expected to be recovered through competition.

Accordingly, EBSCO is the only firm capable of providing the supplies and services described in Section III above without the Veteran's Health Administration experiencing substantial duplication of cost that could not be expected to be recovered through competition

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** In an effort to obtain competition, market research was conducted through GSA Advantage, FBO, FPDS, NAC and the Internet. EBSCO is the only company that provides the requested subscriptions. EBSCO provided a sole source letter for these proprietary subscriptions. An RFI was sent to all 39 SDVOSB/VOSB vendors under NAICS Code 51120, but no responses were received from any vendors that could provide these items.
7. **Determination by the CO that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** A search off FPDS was conducted using EBSCO's DUNS 052711686. The query was further restricted to FY 18 awards for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Several awards were looked at and seem to be within the range of pricing quoted by EBSCO. In accordance with FAR 13-106-3(a)(2)(ii), EBSCO's price is hereby deemed fair and reasonable.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** As described in Section 6 above, market research, in accordance with FAR Part 10, was conducted by advising industry of the pending acquisition and soliciting inquiries from interested parties.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** In accordance with FAR 6.302-1(b)(2) and FAR 6.303-2(b)(9)(i), EBSCO owns all copyright and all proprietary interest in the products/services being purchased.
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** EBSCO Publishing and J.E. Federal Enterprises, LLC
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:** The Government will continue to research the market place for potential new sources that can provide a multidisciplinary database system that sustains Orlando VA Healthcare's academic library system. Market research will be conducted through GSA Advantage, FBO, FPDS, NAC and the Internet.
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.



Emil Neal  
Admin Officer  
Primary Care

8-31-2018  
Date

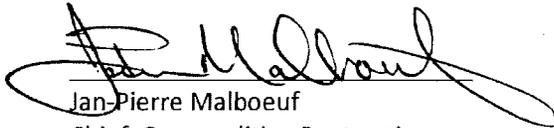
- a. **Approvals in accordance with the VHAPM Part 806.3 OFOC SOP: Contracting Officer or Designee's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Pedro J. Catinchi  
Contracting Officer  
Network Contracting Office 8 - Orlando

8-31-2018  
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.



Jan-Pierre Malboeuf  
Chief, Commodities Contracting  
Network Contracting Office 8 - Orlando

8-31-2018  
Date