

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, NJ 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed sole source action is for a one-year firm fixed-price (FFP) effort to obtain project management services to support the Digital Tutor Pilot Program that VA is conducting beginning September 2012 through a separate contract with Acuitus, Inc.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: The Digital Tutor is a computer-based artificial intelligence tutoring system that emulates the behavior of a one-on-one human tutor which VA will utilize as a service for a one year pilot program. VA anticipates this scalable and cost effective service will provide a rapid and effective path for returning military service members to use when preparing to enter into the private sector information technology (IT) workforce. During the one-year pilot program, VA will modify the existing Digital Tutor developed under of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for Veteran-specific usage to train 100 Veterans. Project management services for this effort are required to monitor and control the execution of the entire Digital Tutor project. These services will include, but are not limited, to: monitoring ongoing project activities against the project work plan; monitoring and managing change requests; reviewing work products for compliance; and collecting and documenting lessons learned. The total estimated price of this acquisition is \$184,062.00.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C.3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is TLK, Inc. (TLK), 105 Saddleback Knoll, Nellysford, Virginia. TLK provided critical services to DARPA in the management of the Education Dominance Program in which the Digital Tutor tool was utilized to train active duty Navy personnel. TLK is the only company that possesses the requisite capabilities, experience, and knowledge required for Digital Tutor project support. TLK's expertise and support is required to provide seamless management of the VA's Digital Tutor Pilot Program, specifically with respect to the development and validation of this advanced learning system for VA.
6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no

competition anticipated for this acquisition. Additionally, the proposed action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page in accordance with FAR 5.201. Any proposals that are received shall be evaluated.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: Market research was performed on July 27, 2012. William Casebeer, a DARPA Program Manager who is engaged in this project through means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VA and DARPA, informed the Contract Specialist that no other company would be able to perform the required services for this effort. TLK's expertise in project management combined with its in-depth knowledge of the Digital Tutor's foundations is unique.

9. Other Facts: None.

10. Technical and Requirements Certification: I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in this justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

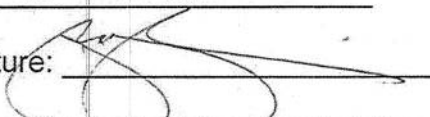
Jonah Czerwinski

Date:

9/7/2012

Senior Advisor, VAI2

Signature:



11. Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on the Independent Government Cost Estimate.

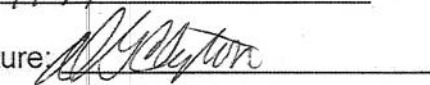
Debra Clayton

Date:

9/7/2012

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature:



12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: For a proposed contract exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold but not exceeding \$650,000, the contracting officer's certification required by FAR 6.303-2(b)(12) will serve as approval. I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed \$650,000, the certification below required by FAR 6.303-2(b)(12) serves as approval.

Debra Clayton

Date:

9/7/2012

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature:

