

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Justification for Single Source Awards IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#)

For

### Over Micro-Purchase Threshold but Not Exceeding the SAT (\$250K)

**Acquisition Plan Action ID:** 36C244-19-AP-2555

**1. Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 04, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, University Drive Campus, University Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15240. PR: 646-19-2-9454-0042

**2. Brief Description of Supplies/ Services required and the intended use/Estimated Amount:**

The estimated value of the proposed action is \$64,090.00.

Research & Development has a new requirement for a sole source purchase for Brain Vision LLC ActiChamp Active Electrode System. This equipment is required to assist Dr. Forster in the research of her ongoing study “Electrophysiological Predictors and Indicators of Contingency Management Treatment Response”. The requested equipment amplifies, digitizes, and records electrical signals related to neural processes and eye movements/blinks that can be detected at the surface of the scalp and face. The data will be used for two primary purposes: (1) electrical signals related to specific brain processes will be examined as predictors of treatment response in a sample of Veterans with cocaine use disorder receiving two versions of an evidence-based intervention for cocaine users (Contingency Management) or standard outpatient care and (2) change in electrical signals related to specific brain processes from pre- to post-treatment will be examined to elucidate neuroadaptive mechanisms underlying treatment response.

**3. Unique characteristics that limit availability to only one source, with the reason no other supplies or services can be used:**

Brain Vision, LLC has been identified as the sole source for ActiChamp, an active electrode system that meets the needs for this government-funded research effort. An active rather than passive electrode system is required because EEG recordings will be made in an office environment without electrical shielding and electro-magnetic noise has been determined to be problematic for data quality. Also, an active electrode system will eliminate scalp abrasions and reduce infection risk and ensure that the equipment can be adequately sterilized using protocol. The Brain Vision acquisition and analysis software are approved for use within the VA through the Technical Reference Manual while other systems like Biosemi Active Two have not yet been approved for use within the VA. Also, the actiCHamp system is the only available active electrode system that is fully compatible with the VA’s required sterilization procedures. Specifically, the active electrode housing is water-tight, allowing submersion in disinfectant and sturdy enough to withstand scrubbing and rinsing procedures. In addition, it is required to use a harsh chemical disinfectant for sterilization of the EEG equipment and it is expected that EEG caps will corrode and lose elasticity over time. Brain Vision, LLC’s ActiCHamp system is one of only two active electrode systems on the market in which electrodes are not permanently embedded in the cap fabric. This allows for replacement of caps that have been damaged by sterilization procedures without the need to replace EEG electrodes which are significantly more expensive to replace than the fabric caps alone. Given the budget for this award and the total number of EEG procedures to be conducted, the ability to replace the less

expensive fabric caps without additionally replacing full electrode bundles is essential to successful execution of the current project.

- 4. Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:**  
All potentially relevant Federal Supply Schedules were reviewed, and no existing vendors offer an Active Electrode EEG system. A Sources Sought was posted to FBO and no vendors of equivalent equipment were identified. Market Research has determined that these items with these specifications are exclusive to Brain Vision LLC, as they are the only company capable of providing the necessary equipment with the specified parameters.
- 5. 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.

Ronald J. Kline  
Contracting Officer  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Darlene Seminko  
Branch Chief, NCO 4  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_