

2019-09-09T08:42:58

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Brand Name Justification IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#)**

**For**

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

**1. Contracting Activity:**

**Contracting Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Network Contracting Office 19  
6162 South Willow Drive, Suite 300  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

**Ordering Activity:**

Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center  
1700 N Wheeling Street  
Aurora, CO 80045

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

The Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center Research Service requires an indelible ink printer that will integrate with the comprehensive Laboratory Inventory Management System to label irreplaceable specimens.

Manufacturer: California Advanced Labeling, Inc.

Items : TW-360A Tube writer 360

TW-Install -360 Installation and Training

TubeWriter 360 Racks

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

A competitive VA Shared Equipment grant was awarded to the VA ECHCS based on justification provided specifically for the TubeWriter 360 system. The grant money is earmarked specifically for the TubeWriter 360 system. Additionally, the Tubewriter 360 has the unique ability to print directly on to a wide variety of materials including various tubes, petri dishes, histology slides, etc. Many of the research samples are from veteran patients and are irreplaceable. The TubeWriter system offers a highly effective method to label specimens that greatly mitigates the risk of sample loss due to inadequate labels/record keeping. Other printers require adhesive labels which fall off containers with repeated freeze/thaw events or storage in liquid nitrogen.

**4. Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:**

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

Market research for this procurement included a review of FPDS, SAM, GSA Advantage, NAC and SAC contracts; California Advanced Labeling, Inc., the manufacturer of the TubeWriter system, is registered in SAM as a small business and has previously been contracted by the VA to provide TubeWriter systems. California Advanced Labeling Inc. distributes their own products and has an exclusive third-party distributor, Fisher Scientific. Fisher Scientific, a large business, distributes the TubeWriter 360 through a Federal Supply Schedule (FSS), but no small businesses offer the TubeWriter 360 through FSS. Based on the market research, only one small business distributor (the manufacturer) and one large business distributor can meet this requirement, so the procurement shall be solicited unrestricted through FBO.