

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 (TAC) - Austin
1701 Directors Blvd. Suite 600
Austin, TX 78744
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a 12-month firm-fixed price contract for extended warranty and maintenance service for the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) systems hardware and software.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: VA, Office of Information and Technology (OIT), requires an extended warranty and maintenance service for the VSAT systems hardware and software to ensure the VSAT systems will support Department-wide satellite communications architecture and remain operational. The VSAT system is an enterprise class system that provides satellite based voice, video, and data communications services via internet protocol for mobile health clinics, mobile pharmacy services, specialized communications needs, and emergency operations in declared disasters. The extended warranty and maintenance services include repair and maintenance of equipment with ancillary items if replacement parts are needed, and includes software updates, enhancements, and maintenance releases. It is critical to agency initiatives that the VSAT systems hardware and software are properly maintained and operational. Having extended warranty and maintenance service for the VSAT systems hardware and software will ensure prompt response to address system hardware and software failures. The total estimated price of the proposed action is \$2,697,028.91.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition for this acquisition is 41 U.S.C. § 3304(a)(5), "Authorized or Required by Statute", as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.302-5. For this action, 38 U.S.C. § 8127(c), known as the Veterans First Contracting Program provides the authority to directly contract with a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB).
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is Thundercat Technology Inc. (Thundercat Technology), 1775 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, Virginia 20190, a registered and verified SDVOSB. Thundercat Technology is the incumbent contractor and is familiar and experienced in providing the required extended warranty and maintenance service for the VSAT systems hardware and software. This previous knowledge and experience in providing the extended warranty and maintenance service, confirms Thundercat's understanding of the requirements for this effort. Based on the above information, the Government's technical experts have determined that Thundercat Technology is capable of meeting all of VA's requirements.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are contained in the market research section of this document. Consistent with the guidelines of the Veterans First Contracting Program, the proposed action described herein will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page in accordance with FAR Part 5.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: All future requirements will be handled on a case-by-case basis when determining any future acquisition strategy.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted to determine if Thundercat Technology is a registered and verified SDVOSB. On December 4, 2012 a search of the Vetbiz.gov database confirmed that Thundercat Technology is a registered and verified SDVOSB and qualifies as a SDVOSB in accordance with the Federal small business size standard for the applicable North American Industry Classification System code 541519. Additionally, a search in the System for Award Management (SAM) performed on December 4, 2012 showed that Thundercat Technology is registered and has no exclusions. Based on this market research, the Government has determined that Thundercat Technology is a SDVOSB and the Government's technical experts have determined that they can meet the Government's requirements.

9. Other Facts: The Procuring Contracting Officer has determined that this proposed action meets all of the requirements of 38 U.S.C. § 8127(c). This acquisition is below the \$5,000,000.00 threshold. Thundercat Technology is a responsible SDVOSB for performance of the services herein, and the proposed contract can be awarded at a fair and reasonable price.