DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
IOWA CITY, IOWA #636A8
JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

JUSTIFICATION

In accordance with the requirements of FAR 6.302-1, 6.303, and 6.304, I submit the following justifications:

1. The action being approved is a proposed acquisition of a Simplex Fire Alarm System as a brand name product, in accordance with VAAR 852.236-90 – Restriction on Submission and Use of Equal Products, within solicitation VA-263-09-RA-0211, for project, "Renovate Inpatient Medical/Surgical Ward 7E," at the Iowa City, Iowa, VA Medical Center.

2. The medical center needs the Simplex Fire Alarm System to provide fire protection to the facility. The equipment needs to be compatible with the existing fire alarm system. The government estimate for the Simplex Fire Alarm System is [redacted].

3. The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is FAR 6.302-1 – Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements, 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(5), and 38 U.S.C. 8109(b) and VAAR 806.3.

4. Iowa City VAMC currently has an operational Simplex Fire Alarm System throughout the hospital. Any new equipment must be able to tie-in to the existing equipment. Other fire alarm system would not be fully compatible with our existing system.

5. The solicitation for the construction project containing this requirement shall be posted on FedBizOpps as well as this J&A IAW FAR 5.102(a)(6).

6. It is determined that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable.

7. Market research and Engineer's personal experience determined that there are no other systems compatible with the Iowa City VA Medical Center's fire alarm system. Other vendor's offering these systems would have to install new systems into the entire facility, which would be cost prohibitive.

8. There are currently no specifications for this requirement that would facilitate full and open competition as the manufacturer's particular brand name product and features are essential to the Government's requirements, and market research indicates other companies' similar products will not meet the agency's needs.

9. There are no sources that have expressed a written interest in this acquisition.

10. There are currently no specifications for this requirement that would facilitate full and open competition. Full and open competition for this specific requirement could be provided if there were additional suppliers with equipment compatible with the current fire alarm system.

APPROVAL

Based on the foregoing findings, I hereby determine, within the meaning of FAR 6.302-1 and in accordance with VAAR 806.304 and the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 that:

a. It is in the best interest of the Iowa City VA Medical Center to acquire the Simplex Fire Alarm System for the "Renovate Inpatient Medical/Surgical Ward 7E," construction project.

Upon the basis of these justifications, I hereby authorize the sole source solicitation for this procurement and by signing this document certify that the justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Contracting Officer

DATE 2/7/09