

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR A LIMITED SOURCE AWARD UNDER A FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE

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 action is for a firm-fixed-price delivery order issued under General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) 70 Contract Number GS-35F-4729G with Aquilent, Inc. for 5,000 Web 2.0 Epic Collaboration Portal (ECP) software licenses. The period of performance shall be 6 months.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: VA Office of Acquisition Career Management (ACM) currently utilizes Web 2.0 ECP software to manage VA Federal Acquisition Certification (FAC) of employees within the Acquisition Resource Center (ARC) Community Corner. VA requires ECP software licenses to continue to manage FAC for personnel in the Contracting career field (FAC-C), Program Management career field (FAC-PPM) and Contracting Officer warrant processing. Only the Web 2.0 Epic Collaboration Portal (ECP) will allow the Office of ACM to provide continuity in operations with minimum impact to the VA operations. The total estimated price of the proposed action is 1167949.00
4. Statutory Authority: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B), "Only one source is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized."
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is Aquilent, 1100 West Street, Laurel, MD 20707. VA has commenced efforts on a competitive acquisition for a replacement solution; however the award of a new contract is not anticipated until sometime in early third quarter of FY13. Failure to renew and maintain the current licensing would cause delays in fulfilling VA's requirements to ensure all contracting and program management professionals throughout VA are properly trained and qualified to effectively conduct the acquisition business of VA. Aquilent holds sole licensing rights to ECP. Any source other than Aquilent would need at least three to four months to completely re-create the on-line web-based forms and workflow process already established and in use with the current ECP solution. This would require re-engineering the automation of multiple VA business process workflows, establishing corresponding web-based forms for each workflow, creation of system login capabilities, creation of system administration capabilities, creation of update capabilities for

current VA data elements, creation of new capabilities to generate current VA reports and automation of numerous other workflow requirements. Data migration processes are also necessary to ensure current VA data is accessible and available via the VA business workflows and web-based forms. Since VA adheres to Program Management Accountability System (PMAS) policy and ProPath methodologies for new product development processes, requirements for support documentation (i.e., technical, system operations, user, and training documentation), system testing, user acceptance testing, and Section 508 compliance must be completed to support formal Government review and approval of any new capabilities prior to implementation in a VA hosting facility. Any source other than Aquilent will require at least three to four months ramp up time to be able to implement similar software that currently meets VA's need while complying with the requirements for PMAS and ProPath.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.301, this action will be synopsized at time of award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and this justification will be posted with the solicitation on GSA e-Buy.
7. Actions to Increase Competition: A competitive contract for new FAC and Contracting Officer warrant processing capability is anticipated to be awarded in early third quarter of FY13. Additionally, as discussed in paragraph 5 above, any other source other than Aquilent, will require at least three to four months ramp up time to be able to meet VA's needs. Once a new system is in place, VA plans competition of all future actions for acquisition workforce support software requirements.
8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts performed extensive market research by conducting a search on the GSA e-Library and other commercial internet sites in February 2013 to identify other sources other than Aquilent that can provide software to meet VA's aforementioned requirements. The research confirmed that while there are other sources that can provide similar software, no other source can provide it in the timeframe required by VA, which will ensure seamless and continued daily operation support for VA's FAC, Continuous Learning, and Warrant Management programs. Specifically, the market research showed that other sources would need to at least three to four months to completely recreate the on-line web-based forms and workflow process already established and in use with the current software solution. This would require re-engineering the automation of multiple VA business process workflows, establishing corresponding web-based forms for each workflow, creation of system login capabilities, creation of system administration capabilities, creation of update capabilities for current VA data elements, creation of new capabilities to generate current VA

reports and automation of numerous other workflow requirements. Data migration processes are also necessary to ensure current VA data is accessible and available via the VA business workflows and web-based forms. Since VA adheres to Program Management Accountability System (PMAS) policy and ProPath methodologies for new product development processes, requirements for support documentation (i.e., technical, system operations, user, and training documentation), system testing, user acceptance testing, and Section 508 compliance must be completed to support formal Government review and approval of any new capabilities prior to implementation in a VA hosting facility. Any source other than Aquilent will require at least three to four months ramp up time to be able to implement similar software that currently meets VA's need while complying with the requirements for PMAS and ProPath.

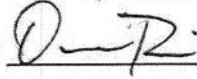
9. Other Facts: This action is necessary to provide for the continued daily operation of VA's FAC for the Contracting and Program Management career fields, Continuous Learning, and Contracting Officer Warrant Management programs and provide VA a reasonable amount of time to complete the competitive acquisition and award of a new contract.

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.

David C. Price

Date: 2/22/2013

Acting Director,
Enterprise Acquisition
Systems (EAS) Service

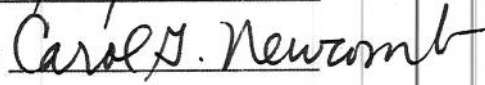
Signature: 

11. Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination: I hereby determine that the proposed contract action will represent the best value to the Government. GSA has already determined that the prices on the FSS contract are fair and reasonable. Additionally, price discounts will be sought. Finally, the quote will be compared to the Independent Government Cost Estimate.

Carol G. Newcomb

Date: 2/22/2013

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: 

12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Carol G. Newcomb

Date: 2/22/2013

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: 