

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed price Delivery Order (DO) issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) for EMC Storage for Kofax Scanning, including hardware, software, support services, maintenance and warranty.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Region 5 requires additional server storage and installation services to store Virtual Machines that are hosting optical character recognition (OCR) scanning functions for the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) projects. This equipment is required to move OCR scanning functions from National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to Records Management Center (RMC) in VBA. The objective of this acquisition is to acquire storage network expansion for EMC tape system in VBA Regional Office, St Louis, MO. The expansion is required for the VBMS application and additional disk space required for VBMS paperless claims processing.

The EMC storage software of product licenses and maintenance support provides a unique solution that is compatible with the existing Kofax Scanning system. NARA is currently implementing a "smart scanning" capability in support of VBMS Development. This will be done by taking paper claims and transferring that data to an electronic format. The smart scanning system automates scan processing and improves the timeliness and quality of extracted data. In addition, NARA has developed a document taxonomy that allows documents to be stored in an image repository so that they can be quickly retrieved. The EMC storage software is a foundational component that enables VBMS to have accurate information. EMC Storage software includes enterprise content management solutions that enables organizations to unite teams, content, and associates business processes with a single platform. EMC Storage software enables people to collaboratively create, manage, deliver, and archive the content that drives business operations from documents and discussions to email, web-pages, records and rich media.

The total estimated value of the [REDACTED] inclusive of a 36-month period of performance for the warranty.

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition for this acquisition is 41 U.S.C. 4106(c) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled Only one awardee is

VBMS EMC Storage for Kofax

capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique of highly specialized.

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The EMC storage system, consisting of hardware, software (product licenses) and maintenance support provides a unique solution that is compatible with the existing Kofax Scanning system. The EMC storage software is a foundational component that enables VBMS to have accurate information. It is a building block that enables these systems to avoid major defect issues by providing essential storage for the OCR scanning functions for the Kofax system. If a different brand name product were chosen, VA would lose significant progress towards the automated claim system because the program would have to begin integrating with new hardware and software. Training would be needed as would time to get the new systems up to speed. This would be a Veterans safety issue as switching to another product would delay this initiative.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. Based on this research, it was determined that limited competition is anticipated for the brand name item. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2), this action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page upon award and the justification will be made publicly available.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: Although the Government is limiting competition as a result of specifying a brand name, there are authorized resellers of these products on the NASA SEWP IV contract. Competition for this requirement among these vendors is anticipated. Furthermore, in order to remove barriers to competition for future acquisitions, the agency will work with the program office to perform additional market research to consider alternate storage solutions.

8. Market Research:



[REDACTED]

9. Other Facts: N/A

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.

5/14/2013

[REDACTED]

11. Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on the expectation of price competition in addition to the fact that prices on the NASA SEWP IV GWAC have already been determined to be fair and reasonable. Additional price analysis will be performed by comparing the proposed prices to the IGCE.

[REDACTED]

12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed \$650,000, the certification below required by FAR 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(C)(1) serves as approval.

[REDACTED]