

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  
1701 Directors Blvd  
Austin, TX 78744
  
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a six-month firm-fixed price (FFP) effort for hosting and maintaining the VetGov Partner (VGP) portal, implementing enhancements and software patches, and providing end user support and training.
  
3. Description of Supplies or Services: The VGP portal is a software application used by the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) for the annual National Veteran Small Business Conference. OSDBU requires hosting services for the software application to ensure VGP is operational, as well as enhancements that would update user profile fields, allow OSDBU to track attendance and resources during the conference, integrate VGP with Poken servers to track attendee data exchanges using the Poken devices, allow attendees to communicate with other attendees and receive notifications. Finally, OSDBU requires end user support and training during the conference. The total estimated price of the proposed action is [REDACTED].
  
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 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) or a Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB).
  
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this acquisition is Halfakre and Associates LLC, 2900 South Quincy Street, Suite 375, Arlington, Virginia, 22206. Halfakre is a certified SDVOSB and is technically qualified to host, operate, maintain, and enhance the VGP portal. The original VGP portal was developed, hosted, and maintained by Halfakre. Halfakre has significant knowledge and understanding of the current VGP technical and functional characteristics of the VGP design, architecture, and coding. The continued hosting and maintenance, in addition to the breadth of enhancements and technical support required, is critical to ensure the National Veterans Conference is successful for both OSDBU and the 4,000 vendor attendees. Halfakre is the only source with the unique skills and capabilities to ensure the enhancements are developed, tested, and deployed by July 19, 2013. Halfakre is also the only source that can ensure the VGP is hosted and operational, as well as provide training and user support during the conference. Any other source would result in duplication of cost and effort that would not be recovered through competition, in order to understand the current VGP application coding, and develop, test, deploy and train enhancements timely. If another vendor is

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selected, additional risk would be incurred as the new contractor's staff may not fully understand the intent and context of the complex requirements included in this application. Furthermore, another source would require a steep learning curve of at least 60 days in order to gain familiarity with VGP.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are 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 synopsised on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) Page in accordance with FAR Part 5.

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

8. Market Research: The Technology Acquisition Center (TAC) issued a Request for Information (RFI) on May 14, 2013 via the FBO to ascertain if there were any other sources that could meet the Government's aforementioned requirements. Only one SDVOSB provided a response, which contained no documentation and therefore did not demonstrate any capabilities that could meet the Government's requirements. On May 30, 2013, the Government's technical experts followed up with the SDVOSB RFI respondent by reviewing the companies capabilities listed on their website. The website demonstrated primarily services in the areas of installation, site-survey, support, testing, and technical certifications centered on Radio Frequency environments. These demonstrated capabilities do not relate to the hosting, maintenance, and enhancement services required by OSDDBU. On May 31, 2013, the Contracting Officer advised the SDVOSB respondent of the Government's assessment that they could not meet the necessary requirements. There were no objections to the Government's assessment. Based on this market research the Government's technical experts have determined that Halfakre is the only source that can meet the Government's requirements.

The VetBiz.gov database was accessed on May 31, 2013. This search concluded that Halfakre is registered and certified and qualifies as a SDVOSB in accordance with the federal small business size standard for the applicable North American Industry Classification System Code 541519. It was verified on May 31, 2013 that Halfakre is registered in the System for Award Management database and is eligible to receive a Government contract.

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

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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.

Hollie Montgomery

Date: 5-31-2013

Acquisitions and Contracts Manager

Signature: 

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 price analysis.

Kari L. Cozzens

Date: kari.cozze  
ns@va.gov

Digitally signed by  
kari.cozzens@va.gov  
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cn=kari.cozzens@va.gov  
Date: 2013.06.03 09:05:06  
-05'00'

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. As this contract action does not exceed \$650,000, the certification below required by FAR 6.303-2(b)(12) serves as approval.

Kari L. Cozzens

Date: kari.cozze  
ns@va.gov

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kari.cozzens@va.gov  
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Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

VetGovPartner Portal Hosting and Operations and Maintenance

Approval

In accordance with VA Procurement Policy Memorandum (2013-01), based on the foregoing justification, I hereby approve the acquisition for VetGovPartner portal hosting, operations, and maintenance, on an other than full and open competition basis pursuant to the statutory authority cited in paragraph 4 above, subject to availability of funds, and provided that the property and services herein described have otherwise been authorized for acquisition.

David W. Peterson  
Deputy Director, TAC – Austin

Date: Peterson,  
Signature: David

Digitally signed by Peterson,  
David  
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ou=InternalStaff, cn=Peterson,  
David  
Date: 2013.06.03 09:33:02 -05'00'