



**Department of Veteran Affairs
Washington, DC 20420**

Sole Source Justification

NCMA World Congress 2013 - Conference

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

(1) Agency and Contracting Activity

Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Acquisition Operations, Acquisition Business Service, 425 I St. NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001.

(2) Nature and/or description of the action being approved

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Office of Acquisition Operations, Acquisition Business Service on behalf of the Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction (OALC) proposes to enter into a noncompetitive, sole source contract with the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) to procure conference services for the Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction (OALC). The OALC has a requirement to participate in conferences that focuses on contracting professionals' development.

(3) Description of Supplies/Services—Describe the supplies or services to be acquired

This requirement is to secure eight (8) seats at the NCMA's World Congress for 2013 being held in Nashville, TN on July 21-24, 2013. In accordance with the VA's Conference policies and guidelines, all applicable statues and regulations, NCMA's primary function is to serve as a repository of knowledge by providing tools and resources to enable entry, development, and advancement for the contract management profession. The goals and objectives are to learn current tools necessary to deal with various contract changes and issues, as well as strategies of how to resolve contract problems. Additionally, the NCMA's World Congress 2013 provides contracting professionals with the opportunity to network with over 1,500 Government contracting professionals from across the nation.

This conference provides a number of education sessions that will allow the contracting professionals to gain knowledge and understanding about the contracting arena, and improve overall contracting practices. Attendees will gain, in a seminar setting, the ability to reduce the research time and costs associated with educational conferencing to supplement acquisition training. Analysis confirmed that a normal stand-alone, 90-minute training costs is \$126.00 per 1.5 continuing learning points (CLP). However, this conference offers the opportunity for VA's contracting professionals to earn 20 CLPs at a rate of \$100.05 per CLP for approximately 525 minutes of training. The approach saves the Government time and money; as opposed to training courses of this nature being taken individually. This conference contributes to meeting the acquisition and procurement training needs of the VA's contracting professionals.

(4) Identification of Statutory Authority Permitting Other Than Full and Open Competition

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(1), as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled “Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements.”

(5) Demonstration That the Nature of the Acquisition Requires Use of the Authority Cited.

The NCMA is the only organization that offers the World Congress training that provides VA’s contracting professionals up to date information on recent and pending legislations, federal budget impacts, industry changes, best contracting and business practices, and acquisition trends. NCMA leads and represents the contracting profession, and provides unparalleled access to industry and Government-wide conferences, networking opportunities, certifications, and informational webinars not available by other national associations that represent members of the acquisition community. NCMA is the only organization that provides this type of training forum to the contracting community; therefore, a sole source acquisition pursuant to FAR 6.302-1 is required.

(6) Description of the efforts made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as is practicable, including whether a notice was or will be publicized as required by subpart 5.2 and, if not, which exception under 5.202 applies.

Market research was conducted via internet to identify any professional organizations capable of providing similar NCMA World Congress 2013 conference and training opportunities under the NAICS code 611430–Professional and Management Development Training. In comparison to other published listing prices, NCMA was the only organization that provided this type training at a rate that is lower and/or competitive to other published prices within the industry (see Table 6.1). Additionally, because the VA already participates as a member of the NCMA, VA’s attendees are given discounted pricing under the Group Membership price list. The compiled market research indicated that NCMA is the only entity offering unique services for VA’s contracting professionals training and exposure to improved acquisition visibility, business development outreach, and faster public resources in relation to industry updates and procurement practices. As such, NCMA is the only national organization of its kind that provides public and private organizations the essential forum for industry interaction in the form of the NCMA World Congress 2013 conference. The type of expert training and exposure provided by NCMA directly contributes to the VA’s organizational success in meeting training needs.

Table 6.1

Market Research: Vendors for Contracting Conference/Training

Group/Vendor	Factor 1-Training	Factor 2-Cost Per Day
Federal Publications Seminars (FPS)	Contracting	\$547.50
Learning Resources Network (LEARN)	Contracting	\$230.00
National Contract Management Association (NCMA)	Contracting	\$218.75

MR Source Data: Google – Federal Government Contracting Training/Conference/Seminars
<http://www.google.com>

The Sole Source Justification and Approval will be posted to the Government-wide Point of Entry (GPE) within 14 days after contract award as required by FAR 6.305(a) and will remain posted for 30 days as per FAR 6.305(d)(3).

(7) Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable.

The National Contract Management Association product pricing is established under a standing catalog price list. The Contracting Officer has made a determination that the price is fair and reasonable based on review of commercial list prices and historical pricing for similar services within the past two years.

(8) Description of Market Research. Market research was conducted through review of available professional associations and industry organizations offering similar type conferences and trainings for acquisition professionals to participate in community events. Analysis indicated that NCMA is the only source that provides public and private organizations the essential forum for industry interaction to provide the structure, name recognition, and products directly to contracting professionals, as well as enable other entities such as researchers, consultants, trainers, recruiters, advertisers and universities to gain broad access to defined segments of the VA's acquisition community practice. Market research indicated that NCMA is the only source capable of supplying the conference services to meet the VA's OALC requirement. No other suppliers were found that provide the unique access to the NCMA having significantly lower prices.

(9) Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other Than Full and Open Competition.

NCMA is the only provider of the World Congress 2013 conference that offers special discounted rates for its members. Concurrently, NCMA is the only provider of services and access to the acquisition community by virtue of its position as a professional association representing acquisition professionals. This is the only source that satisfies and possesses the capabilities to provide these unique services to the VA's contracting organizations.

(10) A Listing of the Sources, if Any That Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition.

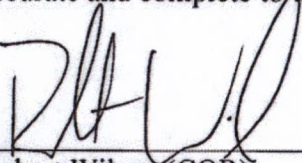
At this time, no other company, other than NCMA, can satisfy this requirement; therefore, no other sources were sought. A synopsis will be posted to the GPE as prescribed by FAR Subpart 6.305 and required by 10 U.S.C. 2304(f)(4) and 41 U.S.C. 253(f)(4).

(11) A Statement of the Actions, if Any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome Any Barriers to Competition Before Any Subsequent Acquisition for Supplies or Services Required.

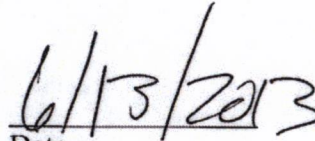
For future acquisitions, market research will be conducted to scan the industry to determine if any additional vendors are available to provide the services uniquely offered by the NCMA.

(12) Certifications:

I certify that the technical requirement outlined within this justification is a need of the VA and OALC, and that the support data under my cognizance, included within this justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Robert Wilson (COR)
Technical/Program Representative



Date

I certify this requirement meets the Government's minimum need and that the supporting data, which forms a basis for this justification, is complete and accurate.



Anethra Facione (Preparer)
Contract Specialist



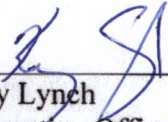
Date



Approve



Disapprove


Kelly Lynch
Contracting Officer
Date