DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 7, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Station 509, 1 Freedom Way, Augusta, GA. Purchase Request # 509-13-3-2132-0292.

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** Firm, fixed price contract for other than full and open competition for procurement of additional ventilated housing units with disposable caging.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The CNVAMC Animal Research Facility (ARF) currently uses Innovive disposable cage units designed with filtered air and exhaust. As animal populations are increasing and the need for quarantine/containment becomes more essential, more units are necessary. The housing space available is causing more researchers to share rooms, increasing the need for a system that can contain individual groups of animals. There should be at least one year warranty on all parts.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** 41 USC §253(g), as implemented by FAR 6.302.
   (X) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** The Innovive system is requested as this equipment is needed to be added on to equipment currently being used. There are no other units that are specific and interchangeable to the units currently in use. Parts for current systems, such as bottles, filters, cage lids, etc., cannot be adapted to other vendor caging systems. In addition, the effort to store different styles of cages and accessories would create a logistical problem given limited storage space available in the ARF.

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** A Sources Sought Notice was published on FBO. No responses were received. Research was conducted on GSA Advantage and on www.thoren.com; www.labrepco.com; and www.docstoc.com.

7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The anticipated price to the government is $10,970.00 plus shipping and is comparable to the units purchased last year and by engineering about two years ago during the HVAC renovation. Additional price reasonableness was determined by reviewing past orders in the FPDS-NG system: V660H00005, VA24012D0035, VA544D0009, VA660D00051, and VA662D00134. Research on FPDS-NG shows the following contracts for Innovive Mouse Racks:
   HHSN271200800118P, 11/29/07, NIH, $13,301.00.
   HHSN272200800380P, 2/15/08, NIH, $11,032.00.
   VA24012D0035, 8/8/12, $11,753.20.
   VA24712P2883, 9/25/12, $11,220.00.
   VA662D00134, 9/8/10, $21,026.03 (2 sets).
   544-D00009, 9/14/10, $20,390 (2 racks).

   The current published price list is $10,645 (shipping and handling not included).

8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Market Research was conducted on GSA Advantage. No compatible systems were found. Laprepco Caging Systems, Thoren Caging Systems, Animal Caging and Biological Storage Systems were found through on-line searches at the following websites:
   http://www.labrepco.com/animal_housing_caging_solutions
   http://wwwthoren.com/
   http://www.docstoc.com/docs/53168764/Animal-Caging-And_Biological_Storage_Systems---Patent-6584936
   None of the animal caging systems found through market research are compatible with the existing caging system manufactured by Innovive that is currently in use at this facility. A Sources Sought Notice was published on FedBizOpps. No responses were received. A Notice of Intent to Sole Source was also published on FedBizOpps. No responses were received.

9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** Buying housing units from other sources would be cost prohibitive and parts and caging would not be interchangeable with current equipment.

10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** No other sources have expressed an interest in this acquisition.

11. **A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required:** Whenever possible, the research department looks for services and products that foster competition. Unfortunately, this particular product is unique for animal research institutes and relatively new so there is little competition available and what is available is not interchangeable with the system already purchased. Searches for equipment are an ongoing process in this unique industry. Networking throughout the VISN and within trade conferences and meetings is utilized by Research Administration and Animal Facility Staff and provides vital information for potential vendors and innovative equipment and processes.

12. **Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Marie J. Andrews
Administrative Officer
Charlie Norwood VAMC

Date 7/3/13

13. **Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304**

a. **Contracting Officer's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Pamela H. Lewallen
Contracting Officer
NCO 7 Contracting Activity

Date 7-8-13

RPA NCO7 QA 7-8-13

b. **NCM/PCM (Required $3K and above):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

~~Calvin Thomas~~ Diana M. Nance
Acting Network Contract Manager
VA Southeast Network – NCO 7

Date 8 July 2013