

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs
VISN 2 Network Contracting Officer (2/90)
Albany Stratton VA Medical Center
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208-3410

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This is a request for other than full and open competition for the procurement of IRBNet online database, from Research Dataware LLC, PO Box 1325 Lebanon, NH 03766 from August 15, 2013 through Sept. 30, 2013, with the option for 4 (four) one year renewals. Upon the basis of the following justification, the use of other than full and open competition for the proposed contractual action is hereby authorized pursuant to the authority of FAR Part 6.302-1-Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.

Procurement Request number: 528-13-4-8108-0053

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** IRBNet is a web-based service that helps researchers and administrative offices better manage electronic protocol submission, modification and tracking processes. IRBNet's product suite guides organizations through complex federal ethics compliance requirements governing human, animal and recombinant DNA research, and modules power Conflict of Interest, IRB (Institutional Review Board), IACUC, Biosafety, Sponsored Programs, Publication Tracking and other committees on a unified platform. IRBnet provides users with access to educational requirements, functional statements (scopes of practice), credentialing and privileging. Currently IRBnet is being utilized by VA hospitals in Central Arkansas, Memphis and Nashville.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**

- (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
- (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
- (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
- (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
- (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
- (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
- (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** Research Dataware, LLC. can meet the government's need for the unique technical support system that enables for the interface of research data for IRBNet Research committees. The IRBNet system is a critical information system that tracks grant review and submissions then summarizes data to support the mission of the IRB, IACUC, Research Safety and R&D committees. IRBNet system will permit an unlimited number of registered users to access the system via the automated user registration tool and allow research investigators to submit research grants internally through the local Research Administration office. Research Dataware, LLC maintains the exclusive technology and platform for the IRBNet database currently being used by other VA Research departments. Research Dataware is the sole source to provide access to its unique database for our Research requirements. Please see attached letter dated August 6, 2013 from Research Dataware stating that Research Dataware, LLC is the developer and provider of IRBNet and that its services are proprietary.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** Contracting officer posted a Sources Sought on FBO on July 30, 2013 for 15 calendar days and this yielded no responses.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The FY13 cost for this service is \$18,500.00. This figure represents opt-in program fees and one-time personalization fees for service and solution configurations. The opt-in customization fields consist of the following:
- a. IRB, IACUC, Research Safety and R&D Committee (Four Boards)
 - b. Unlimited submissions to the four boards
 - c. Unlimited users, and usage for all registered users
 - d. Up to 24 personalized Decision Letter wizards
 - e. Personalization and data maintenance of 2 IRBNet-VA existing wizards: R&D request to review research proposal, and IRB Subcommittee request to review research proposal form.
 - f. Additional Smart Form and Decision Letter custom configurations
 - g. One-time personalization of 2 IRBNet-VA existing wizards: \$ 6,600.00
 - h. One-time fee for service and solution configuration: \$11,900.00
- Total: \$18,500.00

The following are the costs at other VISN 2 facilities for the opt-in program fees and one-time personalization fees for service and solution configurations:

- i. **Buffalo:**
 One-time personalization of 2 IRBNet-VA existing wizards: \$ 6,600.00
 One-time fee for service and solution configuration: \$11,900.00
 Total: \$18,500.00
- j. **Syracuse:**
 One-time personalization of 2 IRBNet-VA existing wizards: \$ 6,600.00
 One-time fee for service and solution configuration: \$11,900.00
 Total: \$18,500.00

Pricing for option years at all sites is firm, fixed-price. Option year pricing is as follows:

- k. Albany \$2,225.00 per month
- l. Syracuse \$2,400.00 per month
- m. Buffalo \$2,398.33 per month

The difference in pricing for each site is attributed to different sizing characteristics (studies, staff and configuration items) at the sites. As such, the pricing quoted for Albany VA Medical Center is fair and reasonable. The Contracting Officer has determined that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable based on comparison with two other VISN 2 facilities (Buffalo VAMC and Syracuse VAMC) receiving the same service.

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 for the purpose of determining other viable sources in the open market with the ability to provide the same type of service. A search of GSA, FSS websites revealed that no contracts are currently in place to provide this service. The Contracting Officer also researched FedBizOpps (FBO) and discovered that Nashville VAMC also procured IRBnet services as a Sole Source procurement on October 9, 2012, see attached FBO posting. The market survey was conducted and the results are that Research Dataware, LLC is the sole company that has the technical capability of fulfilling this requirement.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** None.
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** A Sources Sought notice was posted to FBO on July 30, 2013 and yielded no other companies capable of providing this service.
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:** As it has been determined that Research Dataware, LLC is a sole source provider, no actions may be taken to overcome barriers to acquisition. However, should it be determined that VISN 02 has a future requirement for this type of service, the Contracting Officer will once again conduct a market survey to determine if any business can provide IRBnet.

12. **Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a bonafide 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.

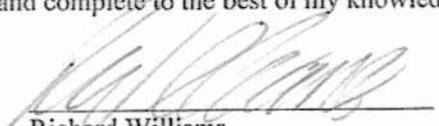


John Carroll-Barbato
Administrative Officer
Research/Development
Stratton Albany VA Medical Center

8/12/13
Date

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

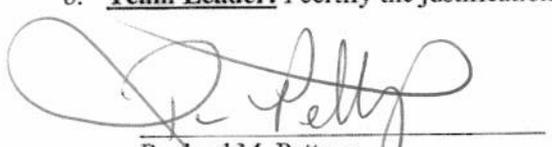
a. **Contracting Officer's Certification: (required)** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Richard Williams
Contracting Officer
NCO, VISN 2

8/14/13
Date

b. **Team Leader:** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.



Rachael M. Petteys
Contracting Officer
VISN 2 NCO

8/15/13
Date



August 5, 2013

To whom it may concern:

Research Dataware, LLC, d/b/a IRBNet, is the developer and provider of the IRBNet Collaborate Suite of services. These services enable Research & Development and its subcommittees to efficiently manage research compliance oversight tasks, and provide a secure platform for cross-institutional collaboration. These services are provided exclusively by Research Dataware and are available only on Research Dataware's National Research Network.

Because Research Dataware is the creator and sole provider of these services, Research Dataware states that these services are to be considered proprietary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Olmsted". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew Olmsted
Vice President
Research Dataware, LLC



D--Online access to IRBnet

Solicitation Number: VA52813Q0440

Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs

Office: Syracuse VAMC

Location: Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Notice Type:

Sources Sought

Posted Date:

July 30, 2013

Response Date:

August 9, 2013

Archiving Policy:

Automatic, on specified date

Archive Date:

October 8, 2013

Original Set Aside:

N/A

Set Aside:

N/A

Classification Code:

D -- Information technology services, including telecommunications services

NAICS Code:

519 -- Other Information Services/519130 -- Internet Publishing and Broadcasting and Web Search Portals

Synopsis:

Added: Jul 30, 2013 9:52 am

Sources Sought only.

This solicitation is a "REQUEST FOR INFORMATION" only. This Sources Sought Notice is not a request for formal proposals or quotes. It is neither a solicitation announcement nor a request for proposals or quotes and does not obligate the Government to award a contract. Requests for a solicitation will not receive a response. Responses to this Sources Sought must be in writing. The purpose of this Sources Sought announcement is for market research to make appropriate acquisition decisions and to gain knowledge of potential qualified Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses, Veteran Owned Small Businesses, 8(a), HubZone and other Small Businesses interested and capable of providing the services described below. Documentation of technical expertise must be presented in sufficient detail for the Government to determine that your company possesses the necessary functional area expertise and experience to compete for this acquisition. Responses to this notice shall include the following: (a) company name (b) address (c) point of contact (d) phone, fax, and email (e) DUNS number (f) Cage Code (g) Tax ID Number (h) Type of small business, e.g. Services Disabled Veteran Owned small Business, Veteran-owned small business, 8(a), HUBZone, Women Owned Small Business, Small disadvantaged business, or Small Business HUBZone business and (i) must provide a capability statement that addresses the organizations qualifications and ability to perform as a contractor for the work described below. No funds have been authorized, appropriated, or received for this effort.

Place of Performance:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center

113 Holland Avenue

Albany New York 12208-3410

Purpose and Objectives:

Purpose and Objectives:

The intent of this RFI notice is to identify potential offerors capable of providing web-based access to IRBNet. NAICS Code 519130, Internet Publishing and Broadcasting and Web Search Portals, applies to this procurement with a size standard of 500 employees.

Response:

Responses to this Sources Sought Notice should be able to demonstrate the firm's ability, capability, and responsibility to deliver the service listed above. Responses should include the following information: Business name, address, business size and Socioeconomic Category (HUBZone, 8(a), Service Disabled Veteran, Small Business, Large Business, etc.), and point of contact to include e-mail address and telephone number. Supporting evidence must be furnished in sufficient detail to demonstrate the ability to provide the full maintenance and repair service on equipment listed.

Determination by the Government not to compete this proposed contract based on responses to this notice is solely within the discretion of the Government.

Important information: The Government is not obligated to nor will it pay for or reimburse any costs associated

with responding to this sources sought synopsis request. This notice shall not be construed as a commitment by the Government to issue a solicitation or ultimately award a contract, nor does it restrict the Government to a particular acquisition approach. The Government will in no way be bound to this information if any solicitation is issued.

Any offeror capable of providing this service shall notify the Contracting Officer by email within 15 calendar days from the date of the publication of this synopsis. (i.e. no later than August 13, 2013).

All information is to be submitted via e-mail to: richard.williams18@va.gov.

Attachment Type: Other (Draft RFPs/RFIs, Responses to Questions, etc..) Posted Date: July 30, 2013
<hr/> https://www.vendorportal.ecms.va.gov/FBODocumentServer/DocumentServer.aspx? DocumentId=903815&FileName=VA528-13-Q-0440-000.docx Description: VA528-13-Q-0440 VA528-13-Q-0440_1.docx

Additional Info:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Contracting Office Address:

VISN 2 NCO (2/90); Contracting Officer; Department of Veterans Affairs Syracuse; 1304 Buckley Rd Suite 102; Syracuse NY 13212-4311

Place of Performance:

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center; 113 Holland Avenue; Albany New York 12208-3410
USA

Point of Contact(s):

Richard Williams

Contracting Officer

ALL FILES

Attachment 

Jul 30, 2013

VA528-13-Q-0440 VA52

Opportunity History

■ **Original Synopsis**

Jul 30, 2013

9:52 am



Q--IRB NET FEES

Solicitation Number: VA2491310021

Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs

Office: Nashville VAMC

Location: Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Notice Type:

Special Notice

Posted Date:

October 9, 2012

Response Date:

-

Archiving Policy:

Automatic, on specified date

Archive Date:

December 8, 2012

Original Set Aside:

N/A

Set Aside:

N/A

Classification Code:

Q -- Medical services

NAICS Code:

518 -- Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services/518210 -- Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services

Synopsis:

Added: Oct 09, 2012 2:54 pm

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee intends to issue on a sole-source basis a firm fixed priced contract to Research Dataware LLC of Lebanon, New Hampshire, for Web-Based IRBNet services for the TVHS VA Medical Center. The period of performance is for 12 months, beginning October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 with no option periods. The NAICS code for these services is 518210 with a size standard of 500 employees.

The proposed action is for services for which the Government intends to solicit and negotiate with only one source pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 6.302.1, Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Sources Will Satisfy Agency Requirements for the above-cited preventive maintenance service, at this

time. This is not a request for quotations or an announcement of a forthcoming solicitation, but merely notification of the Government's intent to order this service from Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. Requests for copies of a solicitation in response to this notice will not be honored or acknowledged.

A determination by the Government not to compete this proposed requirement based upon responses to this notice is solely within the discretion of the Government. Information received will normally be considered for purposes of determining whether to conduct a competitive procurement. Written responses to this synopsis shall contain sufficient documentation to establish a bona fide capability to fulfill this requirement. If no affirmative responses are received within 3 business days, in accordance with FAR 13-106-1(b) (1), a purchase order will be issued without any additional notices being posted. Please send all written responses via the vendor portal, no phone calls will be accepted.

Attachment

Type: Other (Draft RFPs/RFIs, Responses to Questions, etc..)

Posted Date: October 9, 2012

<https://www.vendorportal.ecms.va.gov/FBODocumentServer/DocumentServer.aspx?>

[DocumentId=495131&FileName=VA249-13-I-0021-000.docx](#)

Description: VA249-13-I-0021 VA249-13-I-0021.docx

Contracting Office Address:

Department of Veterans Affairs;Network Contracting Office 9;1639 Medical Center Parkway;Suite 400;Murfreesboro TN 37129

Point of Contact(s):

Stacey McClendon
Contracting Specialist
615-225-6970

Contracting Specialist

ALL FILES

Attachment 

Oct 09, 2012

[VA249-13-I-0021 VA249](#)

Opportunity History

■ **Original Synopsis**

Oct 09, 2012

2:54 pm