

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
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 Procurements (SEWP) IV Government Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC), for Cisco Local Area Network (LAN) Line Card insertion modules. Delivery is required 30 days after DO award.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The Office of Information and Technology (OIT) Regions 1 and 3, require various Cisco LAN Line Card insertion modules. The Cisco LAN Line Card insertion modules needed consist of various brand name Cisco hardware which includes Cisco LAN main core cards, daughter cards, memory cards, Cisco uplink cards, Cisco supervisor cards, Class B routers transceivers and ancillary Cisco hardware for the routers. Specifically, seven Cisco LAN main core cards, daughter cards and memory cards are needed, which are components to upgrade the existing Cisco 6500 main infrastructure chassis. Additionally, six Cisco uplink cards and seven Cisco supervisor cards are required for the access infrastructure chassis. Finally, four Class B routers are required for the Wide Area Network (WAN) infrastructure and transceivers, and ancillary Cisco hardware for the routers is required for both LAN core and access infrastructure. This hardware is needed to increase the LAN and WAN power over ethernet (POE) capacity and LAN main core capacity of VA Medical Center (MC) Regions 1 and 3 LANs to provide site readiness for the Enterprise Voice Systems (EVS) Proof of Concept (PoC) project. EVS, which is a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) solution, will provide increased reliability, redundancy and capacity over the current VA communications model. As part of this effort, VA will engage in a PoC deployment, which will act as a test model for determining the technical and operational viability of an enterprise voice solution within the VA environment. The Cisco brand name hardware required to make PoC sites ready for the EVS deployment will augment the existing network (LANs and WANs) telephony system in the PoC sites as successful VOIP deployment depends on increased network capacity.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 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 capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized".
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Based on extensive market research, as described in section 8 of this document, the Government has determined

that limited competition is available for this action. This is a brand name justification in support of FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. Existing LAN infrastructure within Regions 1 and 3 currently utilize Cisco high end modular access switches and Cisco high end modular core switches. In order to increase the LAN POE capacity and the LAN capacity main core infrastructure, Cisco brand name hardware must be used to ensure functionality. The existing system functions as part of the Enterprise Network Infrastructure at four major MCs and remote sites within Regions 1 and 3. This action is to upgrade capacity by the insertion of line cards into the chassis of preexisting Cisco infrastructure at each of these sites. Only Cisco brand name hardware will be interoperable and compatible with the existing architecture. Specifically, Cisco chassis currently in use will not accept nor will it function with any other brand name core cards, daughter cards or supervisor cards in the chassis.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined, however, that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers for this brand name item on the NASA SEWP GWAC. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2), this action will be synopsisized at award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and the justification will be made publicly available.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: The OIT Service Delivery and Engineering (SDE) Field Operations Service Lines routinely conduct market research for compatibility and interoperability of multiple brand name products. Specifically, market research was conducted in April 2013. Products offered by Brocade, Juniper, Nortel, and Foundry were reviewed by SDE technical experts who determined through interoperability studies on the aforementioned brands of cards and chassis that each brand is card specific to its own vendor-specific chassis. Only certified Cisco brand name hardware will meet the technical requirements for this site readiness upgrade in Regions 1 and 3. Additionally, market research was conducted by using the NASA SEWP IV Product Verification and Manufacturer Lookup tools. The search resulted in 35 potential resellers of Cisco hardware.

9. Other Facts: None

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.

Name Willie J. Wilson

Date: 7/18/2013

UCPO Program Manager

Signature: [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 NASA SEWP IV, GWAC pricing having already been determined fair and reasonable. Finally, the successful quotation will be compared to the Independent Government Cost Estimate.

Name Debra G. Clayton [Signature]Date: 7/19/2013

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: [Signature]

12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name Debra G. Clayton [Signature]Date: 7/19/2013

Procuring Contracting Officer

Signature: [Signature]