

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition (FAR 6.3)

PR: 0040031411

1. Contracting Agency and Activity. The Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Branch of Acquisition and Grants plans to contract by means other than full and open competition. This document sets forth the justification and approval for use of one of the exceptions to full and open competition allowed under the Competition in Contracting Act (CICA) of 1984.

2. Nature of Action Being Approved.

The USGS intends to contract noncompetitively for the acquisition of commercial items from Oregon State University, College of Forestry Quantitative Science Group (QSG) in Corvallis, OR. This contemplated action is follow-on to purchase orders 05WRSA0592 and G11PX00687. The new contract is for a 5 year indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (ID/IQ) contract.

3. Description of Supplies or Services.

U.S. Geological Survey, Forest & Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center (FRESC), Corvallis, OR is co-located on the Oregon State University campus, sharing space with the Forest Service. FRESC requires services to be provided for basic computing support on systems owned, operated and maintained by OSU, College of Forestry (COF). Services include the following: network account in the OSU Forestry Active Directory; access to licensing and technical support for a common pool of scientific and statistical software; access to shared data storage space for collaboration between FRESC and OSU researches; regular backup and recovery of shared data-storage space; statistical consulting in support of scientific research; technical user support and training; electronic security.

4. Estimated Dollar Value.

Number of system user accounts per year: 30 to 50

Number of computer accounts per year: 5 to 10

Optional Services – Software Licenses per year: \$ [REDACTED]

Estimated Total Dollars: [REDACTED] per year and \$ [REDACTED] over five (5) years

5. Statutory Authority. The proposed action may be awarded without full and open competition under 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(1) as implemented in FAR 6.302-1(b)(1)(i): only one responsible source and no other supplier or service will satisfy Agency requirement.

6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.

FRESC and COF have a number of ongoing collaborative science efforts that require access to shared data sets and applications hosted on COF servers. These collaborative projects are

mission critical to the science produced at FRESC and the deliverables due to our clients. There are no other vendors available that offer the data sets, network resources, scientific expertise or research programs that align with current science efforts. No other sources would be permitted to provide these services on OSU owned and operated systems.

Internally within College of Forestry they charge their own science groups the same rate for access to the COF network. These costs support the IT infrastructure required to supply servers, networking and expertise for both local and remote access.

Statistical consulting and software licensing may be available from other sources, but the network access is not offered without the statistical and support and software licensing included. We compared OSU's rates on both statistical support and software licensing and found that they were far less than the average GSA rates on a per user basis.

7. Other Information.

Definition of accounts:

User accounts: A user account includes a number of usernames and passwords issued to a single person that is used to access COF and OSU network resources. These accounts can be used locally on the OSU network systems, or remotely from the USGS network.

Computer account: If a machine is going to be connected directly to the OSU network, a computer account is required for network access and computer management (i.e. Patch updates, virus protection, inventory, etc.) This is in addition to the user account for the user of the system. Computer accounts are only required for machines on the OSU network. USGS systems accessing resources remotely (from the USGS network) do not require this form of account.

8. The Efforts to Identify Additional Sources Including the Market Research Conducted.

Statistical consulting and software licensing may be available from other sources, but the network access is not offered without the statistical and support and software licensing included. We compared OSU's rates on both statistical support and software licensing and found that they were far less than the average GSA rates on a per user basis. The data and network resources being accessed are used by OSU and FRESC scientists for collaborative research projects. No other vendor has these data sets and network resources available. This acquisition will be synopsized in FedBizOpps as required by FAR 5.201.

9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.

Based on the information cited in Numbers 6 above, we see no opportunity for competition in the near future.

10. Recommendation and Certification from Program Office

Based on the above, I recommend this acquisition be conducted on the basis of other than full and open competition. I certify that technical data which form a basis for this justification that are the responsibility of technical or requirements personnel are complete and accurate.

SIGNATURE REDACTED
Scott Price
Technical Representative

Date

11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer:

It is determined to be in the best interest of the Government to enter into noncompetitive negotiations with Oregon State University to fulfill this existing requirement due to the proprietary nature of the services being provided. The anticipated per user cost of \$1404 per year is considered fair and reasonable; this will be addressed in more detail prior to contract award. Upon approval of this justification the Contracting Officer will enter into noncompetitive negotiations. IAW FAR 5.102(a)(1), the solicitation will be made available through FedBizOps. All submissions will be evaluated to determine if competitive opportunities exist.

All of the requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, (41 U.S.C. 253), as implemented in the Federal and Interior Acquisition Regulations, have been considered in preparing this justification. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

12. Approvals

SIGNATURE REDACTED

Verita M. Friesner
Contracting Officer

Date

SIGNATURE REDACTED

Nancy V. Miller
Chief, Branch of Acquisition & Grants

Date

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) considers employee signatures to be Personal Protected Information, and therefore all signatures have been redacted. By posting this document, the Contracting Officer attests all appropriate signatures have been obtained.