

**BRAND NAME ONLY JUSTIFICATION FOR ACQUISITION UNDER THE
SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD**

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Requisition No. 40041143

- 1. Contracting Agency and Activity.** The Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Reston Acquisition Branch, Reston VA, plans to contract on a sole source basis. This document sets forth the justification and approval as required by FAR 13.106-1(b)(1).
- 2. Nature of Action Being Approved.** Firm, fixed price purchase order for commodities contract to be awarded to Hach Company for delivery within 30 days of award date.
- 3. Description of Supplies or Services.** Four Hach NitraTax sc plus ultraviolet absorbance nitrate sensors, 4 Hach sc 200 controllers, associated communication cables, and bench service maintenance agreement. To be provided to the U.S. Geological Survey, Illinois Water Science Center, Urbana, Illinois.
- 4. Estimated Dollar Value.** The estimated dollar value for the contract is \$66,116.44.
- 5. Statutory Authority.** The proposed action may be awarded on a sole source basis under the authority of FAR 13.106-1(b)(1) - only one source reasonably available.
- 6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.** The Illinois Water Science Center is already in possession of several similar Hach NitraTax sensors and controllers which were procured through meeting the specifications and characteristics itemized at the time of their purchase and were not purchased through a sole-source justification. The Illinois Water Science Center has invested approximately \$95,000 in Hach NitraTax sensor instrumentation and some of this expense would need to be duplicated if instrumentation other than the Hach NitraTax sensors were provided. The NitraTax instruments in this current purchase request are of the same design and performance characteristics and will allow for interchanging of system components, efficient field service and replacement and will prevent unnecessary reprogramming and reconfiguration of field instrumentation and data loggers when performing equipment exchanges due to maintenance or calibration requirements. The NitraTax sensors provide data in the required analytical range and precision required and integrate readily with data storage and transmission equipment already in place in USGS streamgages. In addition, familiarization with this manufacture and equipment will prevent errors and mistakes that might be encountered from a stock of instruments of various manufacture and design.
- 7. Other Information.** As described in Item 6 above, there would be a loss of efficiency and potential for error and loss of data if another manufacturer or nitrate sensor were used. In addition, sensors and components are not interchangeable among manufacturers such that data loss and labor costs can be minimized with the ability to substitute components if needed. It is estimated that it would increase routine yearly data collection operational costs by approximately \$10,000 if a different instrument were purchased and it would increase data collection costs by approximately \$5,000 if there was an equipment malfunction that necessitated removing the sensor from the field and replacing with a different manufacturer instrument. Estimates are based on experienced cost of operation and labor.

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

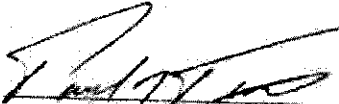
Market research including instrument specifications, operational requirements, and integration with support equipment was done at the time of previous instrument purchase (Hach NitraTax se plus sensors). These instruments are needed to conform to the specifications and operational and support equipment networks already established, which were designed and built around the Hach NitraTax instrumentation.

9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.

Future requirements will be competed to the maximum extent practical.

10. Recommendation and Certification from Program Office

Based on the above, I recommend this acquisition be conducted on a sole source basis and certify the statements above are true and accurate.


Paul Terrio, Hydrologist

6/8/2012
Date

11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer:

a. The contracting officer will determine prior to final award that the offeror's price(s) are fair and reasonable as based on competitive quotes or offers, GSA pricing, or other methods deemed acceptable in accordance with FAR procedures.

b. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

12. Approvals


Dave Ouellette, Contracting Officer

Jun 8, 2012
Date

Jennifer K. Farrell,
Procurement Analyst and Bureau Competition Advocate

Date