

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

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

1. Contracting Agency and Activity. The Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Western Region Office 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. Award of a firm-fixed price contract to Australian Scientific Instruments of Canberra, Australia for supplies in support of the Sensitive High Resolution Ion Micro Probe with Reverse Geometry (SHRIMP RG).

3. Description of Supplies or Services. One each reversible polarity power supply system applicable SHRIMP RG. SHRIMP RG was purchased and is operated in partnership between the USGS SHRIMP Laboratory and Stanford University.

4. Estimated Dollar Value. \$

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: Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements

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

Australian Scientific Instruments has developed a reversible power supply system that eliminates the need to physically remove and replace the power supplies. It is being delivered with the newest SHRIMP II and has proved to be a safe and reliable alternative to physically swapping the modules. ASI will install, test and support the system

The USGS does not possess specifications that would allow competition on the open market. Australian Scientific Instruments, located at the Australian National University, is the only manufacturer of the 15 existing SHRIMP RG laboratories. The high voltage power supply is fully integrated into the design and was built specifically for the SHRIMP.

No other sources are known to possess the unique and essential qualifications outlined in Part 1 of this justification. The recommendation of the Western Region Office of Acquisition and Grants in support of this noncompetitive justification is made in recognition of the fact that the competition must be obtained to the maximum extent practicable.

7. Other Information.

The SHRIMP currently uses unipolar high voltage power supplies to provide primary ion extraction, electrostatic steering, electrostatic focusing and pulsed ion counting functions inside the instrument. In order to run positive ions, all of the DC high voltage electrical polarities in the instruments have to be reversed. Currently, this involves physically disconnecting, removing

and swapping 20 high voltage power supply modules. The risk of damage to the instrument ranges from broken cables and connectors to damage to the power supplies and control electronics that can result in substantial expense and down-time to troubleshoot and repair. This risk occurs every time the polarities are changed. Completion of this acquisition will negate this procedure.

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

This acquisition will be synopsised in FedBizOpps as required by FAR 5.201. No other sources are known to process the unique and essential qualifications outlined in Part III of this justification. The recommendation of the Western Region Office of Acquisition and Grants in support of this noncompetitive justification is made in recognition of the fact that the competition must be obtained to the maximum extent practicable.

9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.

None. The low number of SHRIMP laboratories in existence and lack of reprourement data, make efforts to compete SHRIMP requirements impracticable.

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

Date

11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer:

a. The price of this acquisition to the Government will be fair and reasonable based on evaluation and negotiation using the criteria of FAR Part 15.

b. 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.

SIGNATURE REDACTED
Contracting Officer

Date

12. Approval:

SIGNATURE REDACTED
Chief of the Acquisition Office

Date