

## NONCOMPETITIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION

- 1. Contracting Agency and Activity.** The Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Reston Acquisition Branch, plans to contract on a sole source basis.
- 2. Nature of Action Being Approved.** The requested procurement is for award of a noncompetitive purchase order to Sontek/YSI. The anticipated contract type is a fixed-price type and the period of performance is 4 months or less.
- 3. Description of Supplies or Services.** The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Water Resources Dicipline, Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF), requests award of a non-competitive procurement to Sontek/YSI for the purchase of side-looker Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP's).

This equipment is used to monitor and profile water velocity for long-term deployments, in which equipment is installed in the field, at a gaging station, and left to operate unattended for an extended period of time.
- 4. Estimated Dollar Value.** The estimated value of this procurement is \$93,880.00.
- 5. Statutory Authority.** The proposed action may be awarded on a sole source basis in accordance with FAR 13.106-1(b)(1).
- 6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.**

Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy the agency requirements. YSI/Sontek is the original equipment manufacturer of the required equipment. YSI/Sontek maintains proprietary data rights to the equipment and has no known authorized resellers. The required equipment is of a highly specialized nature and integrates into other systems in the USGS which includes interfacing to SDI-12 (a communications protocol for environmental sensors and data acquisition systems). Purchase of another manufacturer's equipment would require modification to existing infrastructure to include writing new computer code or programs to integrate another manufacturer's equipment into the aforementioned systems. This modification of the existing infrastructure would not only cause serious delays in the procurement process due to stringent test requirements but also represents a substantial duplication, estimated to be thousands of dollars, of the governments cost.

Use and interfacing of another product(s) would require the following effort: (1) the equipment would have to be tested and proven to meet the manufacturer's and USGS specifications, (2) users would have to be trained on how to use and calibrate the new systems, (3) users would then have to integrate the product into the aforementioned USGS systems, (4) new decoding programs would have to be re-written to take the data output from the new system and convert it to an output that is acceptable for entry into the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) for data consistency purposes, and (5) users would have to be trained on how to maintain the equipment and perform periodic maintenance inspections. The delays associated with testing the new equipment, receiving training, and interfacing the equipment into the existing infrastructure would be significant, at least 6-9 months.

**7. Other Information.** Sontek/YSI is the proprietary manufacturer of the equipment and they possess the technical knowledge and patents covering the intricate designs of the instruments and any accessory items associated with that instrument. The Government requests to sole source this requirement to Sontek/YSI as it will provide a continuity of equipment and standardization of repair parts to an existing infrastructure. The existing infrastructure includes the accessory cables, software programs, and other hardware that is already configured to work with the requested equipment. Using a different make of equipment would require an additional investment, estimated to be several thousand dollars, in new software and re-training.

These units are needed to replenish the warehouse stock while we are actively working with OAG-Reston to establish an Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) contracting vehicle for the future acquisition of this equipment.

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

Several vendors manufacturing similar equipment were contacted. No other company manufactures equipment that meets the Government's minimum need. Market research will be conducted with each future acquisition to identify vendors with compatible equipment.

**9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.** To promote competition, HIF continually tests new devices as they become available on the market. HIF routinely attends vendor conferences, trade shows, meetings, and conferences where vendors are present. HIF also attends local Business and Procurement Expositions in order to make vendors aware of USGS needs and business opportunities. HIF encourages vendors to develop and submit products that meet USGS requirements. In addition, HIF promotes visits from vendors to demonstrate and provide information about their products. As new products become available HIF tests them for conformance to USGS and vendor specifications. HIF provides testing feedback to vendors so that they can make modifications, as needed, to meet requirements. Test results are then published in the HIF quarterly newsletter, WRD Instrument News, and on HIF webpages.

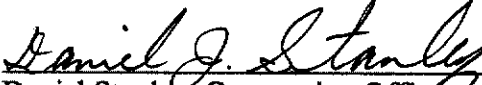
**10. Recommendation Program Office**

Based on the above, I recommend this acquisition be conducted on a sole source basis.

  
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Frank S. Henry  
Chief, Field Services, HIF

4-3-12  
Date

**11. Approval by the Contracting Officer in accordance with FAR 13.106-1(b)(1) – only one source reasonably available:**

  
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Daniel Stanley, Contracting Officer

4/20/12  
Date

**12. Concurrence by Chief of the Contracting Office > \$25,000 (DIAPR 2008-10 Enhancing Competition)**

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Lisa Wornack  
Acting Chief, OAG Reston

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Date

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Jennifer Farrell, Bureau  
Competition Advocate

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Date