

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Justification for Single Source Awards IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#) For
Over Micro-Purchase Threshold but Not Exceeding the SAT (\$250K)**

Acquisition Plan Action ID: 36C263-22-AP-4630

- 1. Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office 23 (NCO23), 3600 30th Street, Des Moines, IA 50310.
Requiring Activity: VA Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS), Fort Meade VA Medical Center, Facilities Management Engineering Department, 113 Comanche Road, Fort Meade, SD 57741.
VA Purchase Request Form 2237 number: 568-22-4-9972-0037.
- 2. Brief Description of Supplies/ Services required and the intended use/Estimated Amount:** A new construction project that has a need for a brand-named sole source item – Aethon TUG Robot Programming. This is a partial requirement for Project 568-14-110 Renovate and Consolidate Inpatient Functions which the contractor shall renovate the second floor of Building 113 in phases to accommodate the operational needs of the facility. This project will take multi-bedrooms and condense them to the proper single patient beds/ double patient beds. This project will also replace the HVAC in the space to meet new COVID requirements. There will be a new elevator installed on this project and the 1st floor will be renovated around the elevator to accommodate the change in patient flow. The overall construction project will be solicited in a competitive environment as a 100% Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business set-aside and will be awarded as a Firm-Fixed Price contract. The estimated cost for this partial requirement of the project is [REDACTED]
- 3. Unique characteristics that limit availability to only one source, with the reason no other supplies or services can be used:** The specified Aethon TUG Robot system is the only robot system that will meet the requirements of the government. The medical center currently uses the Aethon TUG robots to deliver food carts and medicine throughout the facility. The intent and need is for additional antennas and for the robots pathways to be reprogrammed once the space is completed. The facility has standardized on this system in order to patient care, and reduce maintenance, training, and staff costs. The system utilizes proprietary technology so other vendors are not able to connect to it; therefore, it must be reprogrammed by Aethon. Accordingly, Aethon is the only vendor that has the capabilities to provide these services without experiencing substantial duplication of costs that could not be recovered by recompeting the automatic robot travel system in whole for patient food and medicine.
- 4. Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:** Market research was conducted prior to selecting this manufacturer as the facilities standard base. This justification is specific to Aethon TUG robot system. This partial requirement of this project is a minor extension of the existing system at the facility. All programming and robot system components must tie into an existing, operational system. Currently, there are no competing vendors whose products are fully compatible and can be interchangeable with the existing robot system. If a manufacturer other than Aethon is found to have the capability to reprogram and provide components for the existing system and be able to provide exact functionality of the overall system, then it will be considered acceptable. None to date is known or shown to be available.

VHAPM Part 813.106 Simplified Acquisition Procedures: Soliciting from a Single Source
Attachment 1: Single Source Justification for SAP under the SAT

By continuing to use the same robot system at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center, it allows the Government to take advantage of cost savings on training, maintenance and service contracts, and accessories should they be needed. Should another robot system be used it would create duplication of costs for the Government and increased possibility of interface error issues when working with a secondary robot system.

- 5. Contracting Officer's Certification:** *Purchase is approved in accordance with FAR13.106-1(b). I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

Date: 6/27/2022

Angie Mabley
NCO 23 Contracting Officer