

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

Upon the basis of the following justification, I as Contracting Officer hereby approve use of the other than Full and Open competition for the proposed contractual action pursuant to the authority of 10 USC 2304(c)(1), only one responsible source and no other supplier or servicing activity will satisfy agency requirements, as implemented by FAR 6.302-1.

1. Contracting Activity

Naval Postgraduate School
Department of Contracting and Logistics
1 University Circle
Monterey, CA 93943

2. Description of the Action Being Approved

This justification covers the procurement of engineering support, two data communications controllers, refurbishment of proprietary SkySat system components, detailed configuration and procedures guide, and system operations services from Space Data Corporation, Chandler, AZ. This justification for other than full and open competition will be posted at the Government wide Point of Entry.

3. Description of Supplies/Services

Refurbish one (1) Space Data SkySat platform, to be provided by First Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) inventories, to support field experimentation under this contract. Procure Two (2) data controllers necessary to interface end user data devices (laptop/Android tablet) to USMC non-IP-capable tactical radios such that those radios can exchange IP data with IP-capable tactical radios over the SkySat surrogate satellite system. Provide detailed configuration guidance for the tactical radios to be used during field experimentation, both AN/PRC-117G, AN/PRC-148, AN/PRC-152 and AN/PRC-152A versions, with respect to connecting to the SkySat Ultra-High-Frequency-hosted radio, to include any necessary configuration actions for the data controllers. Provide detailed procedures pamphlet guide for use by NPS and I MEF. Provide flight support to the field demonstration site: either Yuma, AZ, Camp Pendleton, CA, or Camp Roberts, CA, to include transport of the systems to the field location, preparation of the systems for launch, launch of the systems, command and tracking of the systems during flight, and recovery of the payloads following decent. Flight operations data that could provide insight into constraints impacting radio performance will be collected and provided to NPS to support network performance analysis.

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Sole Source

FAR 6.302 -- Circumstances Permitting Other Than Full and Open Competition.

- 6.302-1 -- Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements.

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5. Rational Justifying Use of Cited Statutory Authority

The SkySat high-altitude tactical satellite (TACSAT) surrogate system is unique in that it is compatible with all USMC organic Ultra High Frequency (UHF) TACSAT capable radios and does not require the use of directional and/or high gain UHF TACSAT antennas. Space Data Corporation designed and manufactured the Combat SkySat high-altitude platforms and associated ground equipment that I MEF uses under a previous DOD contract. These systems are the result of Space Data's high-altitude-oriented intellectual property (IP) and employ proprietary hardware and software designs, and are a unique technology that was developed by Space Data Corporation for the U.S. Air Force and other DoD entities. Space Data Corporation has demonstrated expertise in supporting non-IP-capable tactical radios in previous field experiments with NPS and I MEF (circa 2006 and 2008). They provide on-going support to U.S. Marine Corps forces both during field exercises supporting I MEF and theater-operations, such as Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since the balloon-borne platforms and ground systems are built around software-defined radios, and that software is a key component of the company's IP and proprietary capabilities, modifications to and configuration of these systems may not be made by any company other than the original manufacturer, Space Data Corporation. The SkySat units are refurbished or repaired, configured, inspected, and tested in a manner that only Space Data can provide to ensure that they operate as designed, which is critical to assurance of successful field experimentation. Space Data Corporation is the only entity capable of ensuring that the SkySat platform is configured properly for operations supporting field experiments. Collection of flight data by the Space Data Corporation is essential to after-action assessment of the performance of the data capability made possible by the system with respect to tactical operations.

6. Description of Efforts Made to Solicit Offers from as Many Offerors as Practicable

The SkySat system, and its operational control systems, is proprietary to Space Data Corporation. They have unique, specific knowledge of its functionality and interface requirements for other external systems. As such, their provisioning of interface equipment necessary to integrate external communicating devices to the SkySat system is critical.

7. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Cost

Costs will be determined fair and reasonable at time of award by the Contracting Officer and based on previous contracts and similar contracting efforts.

8. Market Research

The proprietary information associated with the SkySat platform makes it impossible for another vendor to prepare the platform for operation or certify its readiness for use. The vendor has intellectual property that enables it to have access to the UHF radio system used to control the SkySat system that, in turn, is to be used to provide the extended range data link to integrate the tactical radios and user devices.

9. Other Facts Supporting Use of Other Than Full and Open Competition

Space Data Corporation has a long history supporting field experimentation and exercises in support of I MEF. They previously integrated the tactical radios to their SkySat control system in conjunction with NPS and I MEF. This integration is critical to the success of the experimentation to be undertaken with this system. The intellectual property associated with the radio controller for the SkySat system constrains the required refurbishment of the platform to Space Data Corporation.

10. Actions to Remove Barriers to Future Competition

As the intellectual property associated with the SkySat control system is proprietary to Space Data Corporation, field experiments utilizing the platforms in novel or innovative ways are put at risk without their direct support. It is expected that once the configuration guidance is provided and initial field experimentation is complete, appropriately trained military operators will be able to utilize the capabilities without direct vendor support, but only to the extent that the use does not require access to the inherent intellectual property of the vendor, such as the refurbishment of SkySat platforms after use.

CERTIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL

TECHNICAL/REQUIREMENTS CERTIFICATION

I certify that the facts and representations under my cognizance which are included in this Justification and its supporting acquisition planning documents, except as noted herein, are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 
Signature Name (Printed) Phone No. Date

CONTRACTING OFFICER CERTIFICATION

To the extent that the LSJ value is between \$2,500 and \$150K for services and between \$3K and \$150K for products, the Contracting Officer's signature below also represents approval of the J&A/LSJ.

I certify that this Justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 
Signature Name (Printed) Phone No. Date
