

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
GEORGE C. MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

I recommend that NASA, George C. Marshall Space Flight Center negotiate with Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) only for services involving developing climate analysis for the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) impact evaluation reports. The total estimated cost of this effort is \$600,000, and the estimated period of performance is from date of award through December 31, 2015.

This is a follow-on procurement to provide the SERVIR program with PMI impact evaluations to determine whether climate conditions are favorable for malaria transmission throughout the evaluation period nationally and/or sub-nationally, and to determine if there is an association between climatic variable change before and after the scale up of interventions. This work will advance SERVIR climate services in East Africa.

Columbia University's IRI already has identified a stakeholder community in these areas – a group of people who share an interest in a topic (or an "issue domain"), who continually interact, who share common concerns or problems, and who might have common product requirements. These are also themes in which SERVIR-East Africa is not currently active.

This recommendation is made pursuant to FAR 6.302-1(a)(2)(iii), which implements the authority for 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(1) for acquisition of supplies or services from only one source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements. Competition is impractical for the following reasons:

1. This procurement is an enhancement to activities already being conducted by IRI supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). NASA, implementing SERVIR in partnership with USAID, has been requested by USAID to leverage existing investments made by USAID. Award to any other entity would result in duplication of costs to USAID and therefore the US Government overall and would not be recovered through competition and would fail to leverage the synergy of the ongoing efforts. Starting this procurement from scratch with a new entity would require at least another year's worth of work and an investment of at least \$200,000 to get us to this starting baseline.
2. Funds available and dedicated to SERVIR from USAID under a Participating Agency Program Agreement included a stipulation that a portion of the funds be dedicated specifically to stakeholder engagement to understand and build demand for climate information products. Furthermore, USAID specifically identified IRI as an institution with whom SERVIR should partner, given IRI's engagement in the regions and IRI's proven approaches for designing and delivering climate services to address critical regional needs in East Africa.
3. IRI is the only contractor who can meet the current requirements of SERVIR in the near term time frame. To expedite the process of designing new products, the services being sought are uniquely designed to build upon the relationships and experience that IRI possesses in East Africa. IRI has a

history of engagement with stakeholders in these to areas in East Africa, and IRI has specialized knowledge necessary to satisfy the requirements from the agreement with USAID. Working with an organization other than IRI would involve a significant loss in previously gained experience and effort, and would consume considerably more time.

4. SERVIR has had a contract with IRI in the past and completed a successful collaboration with IRI involving the integration of information products into SERVIR's geospatial platform and in performing similar PMI impact evaluations in other countries in East Africa. IRI is performing related work for SERVIR for different countries, under a SERVIR Applied Sciences Team effort (funded by NASA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences solicitation). SERVIR can leverage IRI's experience to quickly implement expansion of these impact evaluations to additional countries, and satisfy additional technical requirements from USAID.
5. SERVIR is a high-visibility project at NASA/MSFC, NASA/HQ, and USAID. It is of benefit to NASA to deepen its affiliation with IRI, since IRI is a globally recognized institution with goals highly complementary to SERVIR's mission of enhancing developing country government stakeholders' capability to understand, anticipate, and manage the impacts of climate change. Therefore, it is beneficial for NASA to establish a formal relationship with IRI.

Pursuant to NFS 1804.570, this proposed contract action will be published on the NASA Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS) and pursuant to FAR 5.201, this proposed contract action will be synopsisized in the Federal Business Opportunities. The results received in writing will be added to this document by addendum.

Market research was conducted primarily by USAID, but with input from NASA. However, most of the market research is based on awareness and knowledge gained by USAID from direct experience in the region and established partnerships. USAID has an Africa Bureaus and field offices that work in close partnership with local non-governmental organizations, private businesses, universities, international organizations and the governments of host countries to achieve long-lasting results. As such, USAID has a working knowledge of the various national and regional organizations with experience in geospatial information technology and whose program objectives share commonality with those of USAID's. The successful implementation of these tasks requires that significant ground-work and community building has been completed and in place. However, no institutions identified through market research, except for IRI, have the sustained presence and relationships required to deeply analyze the demand process. Regional institutions identified through market research lack the existing infrastructure and/or skills to perform these tasks. IRI, however, is uniquely qualified to satisfy the US Government's requirements for implementing this program. It has the existing infrastructure, technical skill set, and overall capacity to implement these tasks according to the technical requirements and in the required timeframe. No other institution could perform these tasks at this period of contract performance without significant disruption to the program.

Technical data packages, specifications, engineering descriptions, statements of work, or purchase descriptions suitable for full and open competition are available.

There are no known actions which the agency may take to remove or overcome barriers to competition before any subsequent acquisition for the services required.

For the above reasons, full and open competition is not feasible. Therefore, purchase of the services from the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) is the only practical approach.

I hereby certify the facts in this justification and any supporting data used for this justification are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.


Daniel E. Irwin
SERVIR Project Director
ZP11

2/5/14
Date

I hereby certify that the above justification is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. In addition, I hereby determine that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable.

Concurrence:


Jennifer B. McCaghren
Contracting Officer

2-7-14
Date

Approved:


Melinda E. Swenson
Science & Space Systems Support Office Manager

2-7-14
Date

ADDENDUM TO JOFOC

In accordance with PS-OWI-07, a summary of synopsis results is required for the JOFOC once the pre-solicitation synopsis period has expired. Subject period expired February 24, 2014. As a result, no other companies had responded to the pre-solicitation synopsis.

Based on the facts stated above, it is considered in the Government's best interest to continue with the solicitation on a sole source basis to Columbia University International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI).



Melinda E. Swenson
Office Manager, Science and Space System Office

3/25/14
Date