

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

(BRAND NAME DETERMINATION)

ESTIMATED ITEM VALUE: \$36,430.92 (Pneumatic Control Panel Parts)

ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE OF PROCUREMENT: \$36,430.92

- 1.) Based on the justification provided herein, I recommend that an acquisition be made by other than full and open competition for the contract action described below:
- 2.) This contract action includes the acquisition of over 60 NASA specified parts that make up the complex Pneumatic Control Panel. All these specified parts have been specifically designed, tested, and accepted for use in the Space Shuttle Program and they can only be obtained through companies that have been previously approved to manufacture them. These NASA specified parts are from multiple manufacturers. The pneumatic control panel will be used by NASA KSC for activation of the post-liftoff bypass water flow in the Ignition Overpressure and Sound Suppression System (IOP/SS).
- 3.) The IOP/SS System provides water sprays at Launch Complex 39B (LC-39B) through the Mobile Launcher (ML) to reduce the effects of the launch-induced environment, including ignition overpressure, sound suppression, and flame trench/ground support equipment (GSE) cooling. The reduction of launch induced effects is critical to the success of the Space Launch System (SLS) vehicle and its mission. The effective reduction of the launch induced phenomena, including ignition overpressure and sound suppression, requires a large volume of water deployed on and around the ML at precise times and in specific quantities as dictated by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) through requirements, verified during the Scale Model Acoustical Test (SMAT). The pneumatic control panel described in this action is required to activate the post-liftoff IOP/SS System bypass flow to meet the requirements referenced above. The total estimated cost to acquire all the specified parts necessary to give a complete pneumatic control panel is \$36,430.92.
- 4.) Contracting without full and open competition is permitted pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 (c) (1) because the pneumatic control panel parts required by KSC are only available from specifically identified sources and no other types of equipment will fully satisfy the requirements. There is a reasonable basis to conclude that KSC's minimum requirements can only be satisfied by these unique parts. The Pneumatic Control Panel represents the only known assembly of NASA specified parts capable of meeting all of KSC's requirements as described below:
  - a. The pneumatic control panel's components must meet NASA specifications described in the overall pneumatic control design.

- b. The pneumatic control panel's components must have proven compatibility with the sea coast environment experienced at KSC.
  - c. The pneumatic control panel's components must have proven capability of withstanding the launch environments experienced at LC-39B.
- 5.) The government utilized these pneumatic control panels in the IOP/SS system during the Space Shuttle Program and they have proven capable of meeting all of the government's requirements including performance and environmental compatibility. The IOP/SS system has one (1) existing pneumatic control panel currently installed at LC-39B. The purchase and installation of the NASA specified parts for the Pneumatic Control Panel will maintain IOP/SS part similarity limiting capital expenditures of spare parts, service, and training. Procuring anything other than these items will require the contractor to qualify the components for use in our environments at a significant cost and schedule impact. Additionally, these items are known to interface with the other components of the IOP/SS system without further modifications to the system. Procuring different parts will require additional work to ensure they will function as a unit, once installed.
- 6.) Efforts will be made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as practicable. The project specifications for the Pneumatic Control Panel written to fully explain the government's requirements regarding pneumatic components for the IOP/SS system will be included in the solicitation specifications. Additionally, this Brand Name Determination covering all 60 NASA specified parts will be posted with the solicitation on the Federal Business Opportunities website [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov).
- 7.) It is determined that the price of the prime contract, including the Pneumatic Control Panel, will be fair and reasonable. The overall competitive nature of this low price technically acceptable procurement will entice bidders to seek the most advantageous pricing from authorized distributors and supply houses as well as reasonable pricing from all other equipment and material suppliers.
- 8.) Future actions to remove barriers to competition will include continued efforts to reach out to other manufacturers for compatible valves in order to reduce the amount of equipment that must be procured on a single manufacturer basis.

Pursuant to FAR 6.303-2(c), I hereby certify that the supporting data furnished in support of contracting by other than full and open competition, under 10 U.S.C. 2304(c) (1), with already approved manufactures for the purchase of NASA specified parts for the pneumatic control panel is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



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