

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION TO SOLICIT FROM ONE
SOURCE

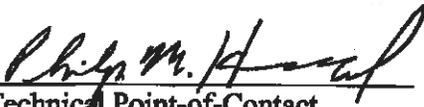
I recommend that NASA, John F. Kennedy Space Center negotiate with Carl Zeiss Microscopy LLC for the purchase of a computer and SmartSEM software upgrade to Version 5.06 for two (2) of the Materials Science Division scanning electron microscopes (EVO-50 and EVO-60). The current instrument computers are obsolete and are no longer compatible with new software patches nor are eligible for further upgrades. The microscope values total approximated at \$550,000.00 and the upgrades will extend their service life. The total estimated cost of this effort is \$ 26,194.57 and the "labor hours, travel hours and travel expenses are estimates and the final invoice will reflect only actual time and expenses incurred." The estimated lead-time for delivery is approximately 1 month.

This recommendation is made pursuant to FAR 13.106, for the acquisition of supplies or services determined to be reasonably available from only one source. Competition is impractical for the following reasons:

1. The computer and software are for Carl Zeiss scanning electron microscopes (SEMs) and have been specifically tested and certified to operate the microscopes without compatibility problems of the instrument.
2. Carl Zeiss is the vendor of the EVO SEMs currently used in the Materials Science Division. The computer is completely integrated to the scanning electron microscope and the proprietary SmartSEM software runs the SEM. Because this is only a computer upgrade, it requires that the vendor of the current SEM provide the hardware and perform the installation to ensure that all interfaces between the computer and the microscope function correctly. They are familiar with the equipment and can provide critical calibration and checks of the delicate components.
3. There is a current maintenance agreement with Carl Zeiss to service various SEMs in the Materials Science Division. The upgraded computers would fall under the maintenance agreement in place and no new service contract would have to be created. In order for Carl Zeiss to maintain the SEM, the computer cannot run on Windows XP and an upgrade is required.
4. Software interface will remain the same after the upgrade, which will ensure that laboratory personnel trained in using the SEMs will not lose any time. The SEM's originally cost over \$200,000 each and training for use of this complex microscope is at least \$2,000 per person. Changing to a different vendor would

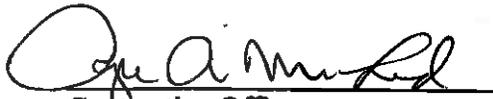
increase costs to the government in lost work time, training costs and could potentially cause over \$400,000 in damages if the software cause a malfunction.

Pursuant to NFS 1805.207 and 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.


Technical Point-of-Contact
Mailcode: NE-L6

7 Aug 2014
Date

I hereby accept the above stated recommendation and determine that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available.


Contracting Officer

23 Sep 2014
Date