

**JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION, PRICE JUSTIFICATION
(JOFOC)**

**ACQUISITION OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN SUPPORT OF SENIOR HIGH
LEVEL USG VIP VISIT**

1. I recommend that the Department of State use other than full and open competition for the acquisition of hotel rooms for this VIP visit. The estimated cost is £278,035.00 GBP / approx. \$380,908.00 USD for a contract awarded to InterContinental Edinburgh the George.

2. Nature and/or description of the action being approved.

Senior High Level USG Principal traveling with a delegation inclusive of support elements in: Security, Communications, Logistics and Operations.

3. A description of the supplies or services required to meet the agency's needs.

Hotel room services at the InterContinental Edinburgh the George in Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

4. An identification of the statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition.

[X] 41 U.S.C. 253 (c) (2), FAR 6.302-2; Unusual and Compelling Urgency; (Based on the available time and urgency of the requirement as detailed below)

Security concerns prohibit sufficient advanced notification of VIP travel to allow for sufficient time to conduct full and open competition. The Department of State can only communicate with the staff at Posts abroad when authorization is given due to security concerns. They have an extremely short turnaround time when authorization has been granted for negotiations to commence and site selections to be finalized with both the local vendors and Posts before the actual Senior High Level USG VIP visit occurs. Security and logistical teams make determinations during the site survey as to which hotels are most suitable for the Senior High Level USG VIP and his traveling staff to remain overnight. Consideration of the Senior High Level USG Principal and the location are taken into consideration as a determining factor.

The types of events, meetings, locations and availability of venues to support the Senior High Level USG VIP and the delegation are often times designated by the host countries.

Unique requirements for communications support are under severe time limitations and always a determining factor in the selection process as its capacity to be augmented to the unique requirements necessary to support certain Senior High Level USG Principals.

Many of the arrangements for hotel and transportation are often not confirmed until just before the actual visit. In addition to supporting a large delegation within a short time frame, last minute and frequent changes of itineraries for supporting personnel often result in significant changes in how Posts work with the vendors. With the exception of a few trips, contracts are not permitted to be signed until the Department of State (Post) has written confirmation from all supporting agencies, which enables collection of funds

Reference DOSAR 606.303-2

from said agencies in the event of cancellation. This results in an unusual and compelling urgency in accordance with 41 U.S.C. 253 (c) (2), FAR 6.302-2.

Multiple sources for providing accommodation are being utilized in support of this visit. The additional sources in Edinburgh which will be used include:

*Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel
Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh - The Caledonian
Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, Edinburgh*

5. A demonstration that the proposed contractor's unique qualifications or the nature of the acquisition requires use of the authority cited.

Security and logistics are the Department of State's primary considerations when procuring hotel rooms. The Department of State must be able to provide a safe and secure environment for VIP visitors. Frequently VIP visits are not announced or confirmed in sufficient time to conduct a competition, creating an urgent and compelling need. At other times, the security requirements and/or requirements of the host country government limit the acquisition to one or a small number of predetermined hotels.

[X] The VIP visit information was not available in sufficient time thereby creating an urgent and compelling need.

[] The host country government requires the use of this/these hotel(s).

[X] The proposed contractor has the following unique qualifications which meet the Department of State's security and logistical requirements.

[] Set-back (hotel is safe distance from the street)

[] Location (able to secure building, travel route; distance to and from event)

[] Size and number of rooms (able to house everyone in one hotel)

[X] Conference facilities (adequate space for meetings, press conferences)

[] Communications (able to install equipment/lines, command center)

[X] Accommodating to security needs

6. A description of efforts made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as is practicable.

Due to urgency and exception in FAR 25.401(a)(5) this solicitation cannot be posted but the JOFOC will be published in FedBizOpps.

No one hotel had sufficient accommodation to cover the needs of the entire visit, and so the following hotels are also being used in addition to this company:

*Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel
Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh - The Caledonian
Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh*

Reference DOSAR 606.303-2

7. A determination by the Contracting Officer that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable.

Rack rates of the hotels to be used for this requirement, along with rack rates for hotels of a similar star rating and location were gathered during the market survey and in comparing the rates offered and the rack rates, it is determined that the prices offered by the InterContinental Edinburgh the George for this requirement are fair and reasonable and comparable with alternative accommodation in Edinburgh during the period hosting COP26 delegations and for a requirement of this size.

8. Any other facts supporting the use of other than full and open competition.

See paragraph 7, above.

9. A listing of sources, if any, that expressed, in writing, an interest in the acquisition.

See paragraph 7, above.

10. A statement of the actions, if any, the agency may take to remove or overcome any barriers to competition before any subsequent acquisition for the supplies or services required.

Post will consider competing some IDIQ hotel contracts, for base and option years, if possible.

CERTIFICATIONS

I certify that the information in this justification is accurate and contains complete data necessary to support the recommendation for other than full and open competition to the best of my knowledge and belief.

October 18, 2021

Date:

P. Ngo

Director

I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. Based on my assessment, I conclude that other than full and open competition is justified and the proposed price is fair and reasonable.

10/18/21

Date:

C. Adamson

Contracting Officer