

NON-SENSITIVE SOURCE SELECTION INFORMATION

Sole Source (Including Brand Name) Justification - Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items

NOTE: If a Justification was approved for the preceding acquisition, a copy of the approved Justification for the predecessor action must be included in the staff package for approval of the instant Justification. This applies to Justification staff packages that are submitted for review and approval at a level above the contracting officer. The predecessor Justification will be used as a reference document by the approving official.

Is this a new or amended J&A Document? ☒ New ☐ Amended (Prior to Award Only!)

Is this a Bridge Action as defined in the [AF Bridge Action Reduction Plan](#)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Funding level for this acquisition: ☐ >SAT and ≤ \$750K ☒ > \$750K and ≤ \$15M

Contracting Activity: AFRL/PZLEQ, 2130 8th St, Bldg 45, WPAFB, OH 45433

Purchase Request / Local ID Number: FM230012590352 & FM230012590389

Program / Project (and PE, if applicable): ThermoFisher Scientific Brand Name Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) Systems

Program Type (PEO or Other Contracting): Other Contracting

Authority: ☒ AFFARS 5313.501 - 10 U.S.C. 2302b, Implementation of Simplified Acquisition Procedures (41 U.S.C. 1901)
☐ AFFARS 5313.501 - 10 U.S.C. 2304a, Special Emergency Procurement Authority (41 U.S.C. 1903)

Estimated Contract Cost (including options): [REDACTED] Justification Type: ☐ Class ☒ Individual

COORDINATION ([AFFARS 5306.304\(a\)](#))

Date 21 Mar 2023	Project Lead / Program Mgr / Requiring Activity Dr. John Kelly USAFSAM/OEAL/770-856-7732	Signature KELLY.JOHN.THOMAS.1549161100 549161100 <small>Digitally signed by KELLY.JOHN.THOMAS.1549161100 Date: 2023.03.21 12:43:26 -04'00'</small>
Date 21 Mar 2023	Contracting Officer Chris Stokes AFRL/PZLEQ/937-713-9831	Signature STOKES.CHRIS.M.1077051810 51810 <small>Digitally signed by STOKES.CHRIS.M.1077051810 Date: 2023.03.21 15:16:29 -04'00'</small>
Date 22 Mar 2023	Section Chief Jessica L Briggs AFRL/PZLEQ/614-832-9414	Signature BRIGGS.JESSICA.L.1460572734 572734 <small>Digitally signed by BRIGGS.JESSICA.L.1460572734 Date: 2023.03.23 08:47:39 -04'00'</small>
Date 22 Mar 2023	Local Legal Reviewer Aaron G Lake AFMC/JANT/937-713-0056	Signature LAKE.AARON.G.1190521350 1350 <small>Digitally signed by LAKE.AARON.G.1190521350 Date: 2023.03.22 09:04:03 -04'00'</small>
Date 28 Mar 2023	Procurement Analyst Vanessa Russell-Reed AFRL/PZLC/937-713-9829	Signature RUSSELL- REED.VANESSA.E.1269221280 1269221280 <small>Digitally signed by RUSSELL- REED.VANESSA.E.1269221280 Date: 2023.03.28 16:06:37 -04'00'</small>
Date 16 May 2023	Branch Chief Bill E. Oswald AFRL/PZLE	Signature OSWALD.BILL.E.III.1230053614 053614 <small>Digitally signed by OSWALD.BILL.E.III.1230053614 Date: 2023.05.16 13:16:45 -04'00'</small>

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APPROVAL (AFFARS 5306.304(a))

Date	Chief of the Contracting Office/Competition Advocate	Signature
16 May 2023	James E. Ehret, Jr. AFRL/PZL/937-713-9798	EHRET.JAMES.E.JR.1230117957 117957

Digitally signed by
EHRET.JAMES.E.JR.1230117957
Date: 2023.05.16 15:26:01 -04'00'

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I. Contracting Activity.

AFRL/PZLEQ, 2130 8th St, Bldg 45, WPAFB, OH 45433

II. Nature and/or description of the action being processed.

The contract action proposed is a new brand name, firm-fixed price purchase order in accordance with FAR Part 13, to include FAR Subpart 13.5 for the acquisition of certain commercial products.

III. Description of supplies/services required to meet agency needs.

The United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Analysis Support Branch (USAFSAM/OEAL) is the home of the Air Force's Industrial Hygiene Laboratory (IHL). Air Force organizations across the globe send approximately 2,000 samples per year to the IHL to test for workplace contaminants. Results are used to determine workplace exposures and exposure controls. The IHL requires six (6) Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) systems with the following capabilities/specifications:

- analyzes samples for a variety of organic solvents, aromatic hydrocarbons, jet fuels, and anesthetic gases. This functionality is needed to support the current product lines offered by the IHL.
- conducts Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry data analysis. This functionality is needed to support the current product lines offered by the IHL.
- consists of a column oven with column capabilities, one autosampler, dual ECDs, and dual sample injectors (injectors must offer split/split-less injection and sustain temperatures ~250 degrees Celsius; column ovens must hold temperatures up to 400 degrees Celsius). The IHL product lines currently offered to USAF use NIOSH/OSHA/EPA methods that are validated for analysis of chemical targets. This hardware is required to perform such testing.
- fit within laboratory space of approximately 6 feet x 2 feet. This requirement is necessary because of limited bench space in the IHL
- interface with the Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite. This requirement is necessary because current and future product lines will use Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite for all data acquisition and Electronic Data Deliverables (EDD).

ThermoFisher Scientific manufactures the only GC-MS system that meets all of the above-listed capabilities/specifications. Accordingly, this is a brand-name acquisition for six (6) ThermoFisher Scientific GC-MS systems (see attached Parts list; Delivery 3-4 weeks ACA).

IV. Statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition.

10 U.S.C. 3572 (41. U.S.C. 1901) authorizes the Implementation of Simplified Acquisition Procedures, which may be used for acquisitions of commercial items that do not exceed \$7.5 million. Under FAR 13.501(a), sole source (including brand name) acquisitions conducted under simplified acquisition procedures are exempt from the competition requirements outlined in FAR Part 6.

V. Demonstration that the contractor's unique qualifications or nature of the acquisition requires the use of the authority cited above (applicability of authority).

ThermoFisher Scientific brand-name GC-MS systems are the only viable option for this acquisition because:

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1. The IHL currently utilizes the Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite, which combines all separation and detection techniques, including mass spectrometry (MS), into a single compliance-ready enterprise (client/server) environment. Current and future instrument procurements must interface with this software. Although all chromatography product lines can interface with the Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite, only Thermo brand mass spectrometers will interface with this software. Thus, procurement of an other-than-requested (OTR) brand of GC-MS system would render the IHL's existing Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite useless and require the expenditure of additional manpower and funds to procure a new software system. Estimated costs to purchase and install a new software suite are as follows: (a) [REDACTED] to purchase a new software suite plus [REDACTED] per instrument and [REDACTED] per user station; (b) [REDACTED] to purchase new software training; (c) manpower costs for three (3) IT staff members to support the install process of the new software suite; and (d) cost for eight (8) laboratory staff members to complete 40 hours of software user training.
2. Time frames for the Air Force to approve new software for deployment on the Air Force network can take from 30 to 180 days to complete--during which time the IHL would experience a complete work stoppage. Testing for workplace exposures across 128 Air Force installations would be impacted, thereby limiting the Air Force's ability to implement exposure controls and protect the health and wellbeing of its personnel.
3. The IHL's written standard operating procedures (SOPs) for testing organic solvents - which are currently accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association - are based on using the Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite. Procuring an OTR brand of GS-MS system, which would require purchase and installation of a new software suite, would void the current SOPs and result in a complete work stoppage until new SOPs are written, reviewed, and approved by the American Industrial Hygiene Association. The accreditation process can take up to three (3) months. Procurement of ThermoFisher Scientific brand name GC-MS systems allow for continuous, uninterrupted operations of the IHL.
4. The Contract Specialist compared quotations from Thermo Electron North America, Agilent, and Perkin Elmer, all from the same time period, and concluded pricing for GC-MS systems is similar amongst manufacturers; however, additional direct and indirect costs associated with switching to a new enterprise software suite to support the usage of an OTR GC-MS would increase the overall cost of this acquisition.

VI. Description of efforts made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as practicable.

1. On 20 December 2022, the assigned Contract Specialist and Contracting Officer conducted a site visit of the IHL. During this visit end users demonstrated how the IHL's existing mass spectrometer (OTR brand) does not interface with the Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite. Also during this visit, end users provided the Contract Specialist an e-mail exhibit from Thermo Electron North America, dated 30 November 2022, which confirms that only ThermoFisher Scientific brand mass spectrometers will interface with the Thermo Chromeleon Enterprise Suite.
2. The Contract Specialist collaborated with the end user to devise an accurate and complete listing of parts required to meet the IHL's requirements (see attached Parts Listing).
3. On 11 January 2023, the Contract Specialist obtained a list from Thermo Electron North America of firms authorized to distribute ThermoFisher Scientific parts. The list of authorized distributors is as

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follows:

- a. CAITTA (small business)
- b. CCT Technologies, Inc. (small business)
- c. Franklin Young International (small business)
- d. Government Scientific Source, Inc. (small business)
- e. International Equipment Trading Ltd (small business)

Based on this research, there are six (6) vendors available for this acquisition - Thermo Electron North America (OEM/other than small business) and the five (5) authorized small business distributors.

4. The Contract Specialist reviewed DSBS and SAM.gov to validate/confirm small business status of firms surveyed for this acquisition.

VII. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable.

Price will be determined fair and reasonable using the methods at FAR 13.106-3(a)(1). However, should adequate price competition not be received for this acquisition, then the methods at FAR 13.106-3(a)(2) shall be used to determine fair and reasonable pricing.

VIII. Description of the market research conducted and the results, or a statement of the reasons market research was not conducted.

See above Section VI and attached market research report.

IX. Any other facts supporting the use of Other Than Full and Open Competition.

N/A

X. List of any sources that expressed, in writing, an interest in the acquisition.

N/A

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

USAFSAM/OEAL performs market research to determine if there are other manufacturers able to provide capabilities that justify a full overhaul of OEAL's equipment line and re-accomplishing of SOPs for accreditation, and if a solution is to become available at a time when OEAL's existing equipment is near end of life, this may be a potential solution for a future procurement with competition.

XII. Certification by the Contracting Officer.

As evidenced by my signature above, I have determined this document to be both accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

XIII. Certification by the technical/requirements personnel.

As evidenced by my signature above, I certify that any supporting data contained herein, which is my responsibility, is both accurate and complete.