

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION UNDER SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES FOR
CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAR 13.5**

Acquisition Plan Action ID: 36C247-23-AP-2122

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs located in VISN 7, Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System located at 109 Bee Street, Charleston SC 29401, in support of VISN 7 Charlie Norwood VA Health Care System at 1 Freedom Way, Augusta, GA 30904 & 950 15th Street, Augusta, GA 30901. Transaction no. 509-24-1-5102-0003
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** Vendor will provide Remote Support, Software Coverage and On-site Service. These services will be provided on all associated Nurse Call systems present throughout Building 801 and Building 110 and the components in the Uptown Telephone Operator's Room (4E116). Perform annual preventive maintenance service/inspection and recertification.

Signal Technologies shall provide all material, labor and supplies required to provide servicing and technical support of the Uptown & Downtown Division nurse call systems. The vendor shall use only original factory/manufacturer replacement parts. The system in question is patient safety and must comply with original factory specifications. Failure to provide servicing and technical support for the nurse call system impacts patient safety, including the notification of a medical emergency to clinical staff.

Projected Total Cost: [REDACTED]

Base Year: 10/1/2023 to 9/30/2024
Option Year 1: 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2025
Option Year 2: 10/1/2025 to 9/30/2026
Option Year 3: 10/1/2026 to 9/30/2027
Option Year 4: 10/1/2027 to 9/30/2028



3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The Augusta VA Health Care System is seeking three types of services under this contract: remote support, software coverage and on-site service for the Nurse Call System. Remote Support will be provided by Vendor in conjunction with technical support team utilizing Vendor's VPN access to the facility. VPN access will be required for remote support. This will be in the form of 24/7 telephone and remote access support. Vendor will be the first line of defense and should be contacted directly if there is an issue. Software will also be updated when necessary to resolve system problems, should they occur.

On-site service will include service delivered on-site for repair and for a yearly inspection of the system. Vendor's technicians will have duties that include testing, diagnosing, replacing, and repairing nurse call devices. The yearly inspection will include a recertification where every device is tested, and a log taken to verify the system was tested. Each device will be tested for full functionality. Immediate reporting of discovered system deficiencies to COR.

Signal Technologies Inc. is the only authorized vendor that can provide this service. Thus, preventing competition and consideration of other vendors. Be advised that Signal Technologies, Inc. is the sole entity authorized to sell Critical Alert CommonPath nurse call equipment and services to the Veterans Administration, in Georgia. Signal Technologies is also the only company that is trained and certified to install and maintain the proposed upgrade to the current nurse call system.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Restricted Competition:**

FAR 13.5 Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items. The statutory authority for applying the Simplified Procedures for Commercial Items of FAR 13.5 is 41 U.S.C. § 1901 and is implemented by FAR 13.106-1(b)(2) for restricting competition on this procurement. **Competition is restricted on this procurement for the reason below:**

- ☒ (X) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements
- ☐ () Unusual and Compelling Urgency
- ☐ () Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services
- ☐ () International Agreement
- ☐ () Authorized or Required by Statute
- ☐ () National Security
- ☐ () Public Interest

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**

Critical Alert CommonPath is the software needed for the continued maintenance, repair and support of the Nurse Call System as it is currently being utilized. Signal Technologies Inc. is the only authorized vendor that can provide these services. Thus, preventing competition and consideration of other vendors. Be advised that Signal Technologies, Inc. is the sole entity authorized to sell Critical Alert CommonPath nurse call equipment and services to the Veterans Administration, in Georgia. Signal Technologies is also the only company that is trained and certified to install and maintain the proposed upgrade to the current nurse call system. Due to the highly specialized nature of this software being utilized on a major system, alternatives would be costly and could lead to diminished patient care.

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:**

Various efforts were made to solicit potential sources as possible. Market researched was conducted utilizing multiple sources to include beta.SAM.gov. An intent to sole source was posted in order to survey and notify the commercial market of the government's need. In response to the Intent to Sole Source, there were two companies that relayed their interest in the requirement, Nebula Virtual Solutions LLC and Government Marketing & Procurement (GMP) LLC. Both companies were deemed unacceptable. Nebula offered their ability to provide telephone services but have not been authorized to sell the Critical Alert CommonPath that is needed. GMP offered Vocera Products but not the needed Critical Alert CommonPath needed for this requirement, thus also unacceptable. Both companies were ultimately considered to be unacceptable at this time.

7. **Determination by the CO that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and**

Reasonable: Cost will be compared to similar commercially available items to determine price fair and reasonable, prior to contract award.

8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:**

Market research was conducted as detailed in section 6 above. Research also revealed a large business, Critical Alert, as the sole entity capable of providing the Critical Alert CommonPath that is needed for the Nurse Call system support services. Critical Alert confirmed that they do not sell their products directly and only fulfill their government order through their confirmed small business partnership with Signal Technologies, Inc. Signal Technologies has further confirmed that they are capable of fully fulfilling the requirement.

9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** N/A

10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

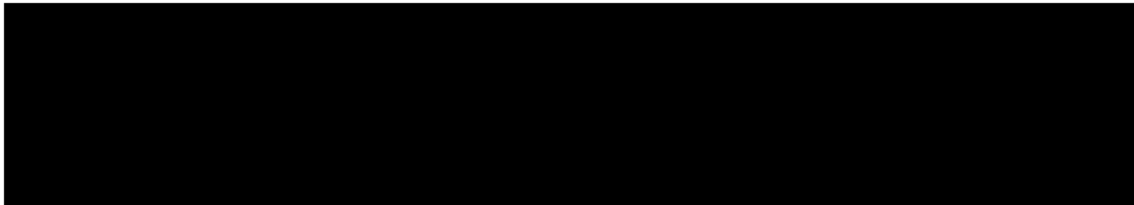
Nebula Virtual Solutions LLC | POC: Brittany McEachin; hr@nebulavirtualsolutions.com

Government Marketing & Procurement (GMP) LLC | POC: Jordan Grazdan; jgrazdan@gmpgov.com

11. **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:**

The commercial market will be surveyed consistently, to include during option exercises, to locate potential new entries to the available market.

12. **Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



13. **Approvals in accordance with the [VHAPM Part 806.3 OFOC SOP:](#)**

a. **Contracting Officer or Designee's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

b. **One Level Above the Contracting Officer (Required over SAT but not exceeding \$750K):**

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