

J&A Number:  
NSWC-PHD-JA-23-57  
Code: BD3

(CLASS) JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL  
FOR USE OF OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity

The Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Port Hueneme Division (PHD), Contracts Department (Code 02).

2. Description of the Action Being Approved

PHD intends to award a single firm-fixed price contract on a brand name basis for Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC) training courses in support of our cybersecurity workforce (CSWF).

3. Description of Supplies/Services

This procurement is for access, i.e. seats to multiple training courses that will prepare our cybersecurity workforce (CSWF) for Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC).

These certification-training courses will meet the requirements outlined in DODD8570 (<https://public.cyber.mil/wid/cwmp/dod-approved-8570-baseline-certifications/>). Per this instruction, GIAC certification is required for those performing Information Assurance Technical and Management (IAT/IAM) functions. The required certification is based on the employee's assigned technical and management level (I, II or III). Every GIAC certification has its' own associated training course.

Our CSWF requires access to the following GIAC certification training courses:

- SEC504: Hacker Tools, Techniques, and Incident Handling
- SEC503: Intrusion Detection In-Depth

- FOR508: Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting, and Digital Forensics
- FOR500: Windows Forensic Analysis
- SEC401: Security Essentials - Network, Endpoint, and Cloud
- MGT512: Security Leadership Essentials for Manager

Our CSWF requires the flexibility to self-register for on-demand GIAC branded courses and to train on their own schedule with minimal impact to daily tasking.

The Government's minimum needs have been verified by the certifying technical and requirements personnel.

Estimated Dollar Value

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Totals
O&MN				
Total				

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other Than Full and Open Competition

10 U.S.C.2304(c)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.302-1, Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.

5. Rationale Justifying Use of Cited Statutory Authority

GIAC branded certifications are required by DoD Directive 8570 for all personnel performing Information Assurance (IA) functions. In accordance with DoDD 8570, no other brand can substitute or meet the certification requirements that GIAC brand certifications meet. Therefore, if NSWC PHD was unable to obtain GIAC branded courses for its IA employees, these employees would be forced to be removed from their positions for failure to maintain proper cybersecurity baseline certifications. This would result in an unreasonable delay to the Government since NSWC PHD would need to spend several months hiring new employees that have already taken the GIAC brand courses and therefore already meet the IA certification requirements impacting the Command's mission by causing a gap in IA/cybersecurity services to the fleet.

6. Description of Efforts Made to Solicit Offers from as Many Offerors as Practicable

Our market research consisted of reaching out to more than 20 vendors and requesting them to provide a price list for the GIAC certificate training courses for specific number of seats required per year. In conclusion, we learned only one vendor; SANS Institute can fulfill our training requirement (SIMACQ-PHD-BD3-Market Research-Pricing and SIMACQ-PHD-BD3-Market Research-Pricing for OYs)

Multiple vendors responded that they did not offer GIAC training.

Our market research concluded that SANS Institute is the sole provider of GIAC training/certification. Although SANS has agreements with other vendors to sell seats to their GIAC training, these third party vendors require customers to procure more training seats than what PHD requires. For example, Ultimate Knowledge stated they had a third party agreement with SANS; but they require customers to procure a minimum of 20 training seats at a time. (SIMACQ-PHD-BD3-Market Research-Min 20). NSWC PHD requires 15 training seats.

Our market research also included searching for GIAC training on AbilityOne, Unicor and GSA Advantage. GIAC training was not found on AbilityOne or Unicor; however, on GSA Advantage, GIAC Security Essentials (just one training course) was available through the vendor, SkillsSoft. After conversations with the vendor and a request for a price listing, the vendor declined. (SIMACQ-PHD-BD3-Market Research-Declined)

7. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Costs

The Contracting Officer has determined that the anticipated cost to the Government for the supplies/services covered by the J&A will be fair and reasonable.

8. Actions to Remove Barriers to Competition

For the reasons set forth in Paragraph 5, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Contracts Division (Code 02) has no plans at this time to compete future contracts for the types of supplies/services covered by this document. If another potential source emerges, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Contracts Division (Code 02) will assess whether competition for future requirements is feasible.

CERTIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL

TECHNICAL/REQUIREMENTS CERTIFICATION (FAR 6.303-2(c))

I certify that the facts and representations under my cognizance, which are included in this justification and its supporting acquisition planning data, except as noted herein, are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

TECHNICAL COGNIZANCE:

[REDACTED]  
Date: 2023.03.27 09:45:29 -0700

[REDACTED] Training Specialist, Code BD3, [REDACTED]  
Date

REQUIREMENTS COGNIZANCE:

[REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Business Director, Code BD3, [REDACTED] Date

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY REVIEW (NMCARS 5206.303(90))

I have determined this justification is legally sufficient.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Assistant Counsel, [REDACTED], Code 000L,  
Date

CONTRACTING OFFICER CERTIFICATION (FAR 6.303-2(b)(12))

I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**WYNN.ARTHUR.P.JR.1080480870**

Digitally signed by WYNN.ARTHUR.P.JR.1080480870  
Date: 2023.03.27 10:21:38 -0700

Arthur Wynn, Contracting Officer, Code 0271, 805-228-6111, Date