

SOLES SOURCE JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL FOR ACQUISITION UNDER THE SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD

1. **Contracting Agency and Activity.** The Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey Reston Acquisitions Branch, Reston, VA, plans to contract on a sole source basis. This document sets forth the justification and approval as required by FAR 13.106-1(b)(1) "Only One Source Reasonable Available"
2. **Nature of Action Being Approved.** Create new fixed price contract with SNL Financial for a year, as they bought out MEG.
3. **Description of Supplies or Services.** Online publication and database of global mineral exploration and development activities.
4. **Estimated Dollar Value.** \$21,000 per year
5. **Statutory Authority.** The proposed action may be awarded on a sole source basis in accordance with: FAR 13.106-1(b)(1) "Only One Source Reasonable Available"
6. **Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.** The SNL offers a database called MineSearch that provides timely data pertaining to the exploration and development of mineral commodities on a global basis. The information is highly valued by specialists of the National Minerals Information Center for enhancing analyses, improving statistical data, and providing information that permits specialists to gain a greater understanding of issues and activities in the minerals industries. The information is regularly used in USGS publications and in responding to requests for information and analysis. The SNL-MEG's MineSearch offers an easily accessible and searchable database with the widest coverage of information pertaining to global mineral exploration and development in a comprehensive and timely manner. There is no equivalent source that offers these particular features.
7. **Other Information.** MineSearch is a source of information pertaining to the global minerals industry that improves the efficiency of data collection and analyses.
8. **The Efforts to Identify Additional Sources Including the Market Research Conducted.** There are several sources of information that offer information relevant to the minerals industry. These are available as journals in hard copy and electronic formats, and as databases to a much more limited extent. Many USGS analysts search for data in publications, but find that this vendor's compilation of numerous publications and other sources of information are more useful. SNL-MEG also provides detailed information on location using satellite imagery, which is not offered to the best of our knowledge from any other single source. InfoMine is another electronic database that addresses the minerals industry, but has limited coverage both geographically and in content relative to that offered by SNL-MEG. There is no equivalent source that offers these particular features. In summary, the SNL-MEG database is superior, to the best of our knowledge, to other available databases and publications by saving time, money, and the necessity to subscribe to additional costly and separate publications.

9. **Future Plans to Permit Competition.** Investigations will continue to determine the availability of other products in the marketplace that meet the technical requirements of this task at a competitive price.

10. **Recommendation Program Office**

Based on the above, I recommend this acquisition be conducted on a sole source basis and certify that the above statements are true and correct.

[Redacted Signature]

6-26-13

Donald Bierwas
Physical Scientist, GMAS, NMIC

Date

11. **Certifications from the Contracting Officer**

- a. The contracting officer has determination that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable based on comparison with the price quoted by Metal Economics Group for the Purchase order G12PX00649.
- b. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Redacted Signature]

_____, Contracting Officer

Date

12. **Concurrence by Competition Advocate > \$25,000 (DIAPR 2008-10 Enhancing Competition)**

Jennifer Farrell, Bureau Competition Advocate

Date

The U.S Geological Survey (USGS) considers employee signatures to be Personal Protected Information, and therefore all employee signatures have redacted. By posting this document, the Contracting Officer attests all appropriate signatures have been obtained

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) intends to make a non-competitive award to SNL Financial LC, located in Charlottesville, VA, for the site licenses Mineral commodities, to be delivered to multiple Destinations in USGS from Award date to one year.

There is no option periods this time

Last year we had this service contracted to MEG (no-competitive award) for base plus four option years. However, by the time we are ready to exercise option year, the Company MEG was bought out by SNL Financial LC, located in Charlottesville, VA. SNL Financial is the only available vendor to provide the requested services at this time

In accordance with FAR 5.207, all responsible sources may submit a bid, proposal or quotation which shall be considered by the agency, however, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS. The Government intends to award this requirement noncompetitively in accordance with FAR 13.106-1(b)(1).

Email responses to hnair@usgs.gov.

The anticipated NAICS code is 519190. The size standard is \$25.50 million.

The anticipated award date of the contract is 07/23/2013. The anticipated contract will be firm fixed-price. A vendor must be registered at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/> to be awarded the contract.