

## **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).

**2. Nature of Action Being Approved.** A noncompetitive firm-fixed price purchase order to the Hinds County, Mississippi Economic Development Authority. The period of performance will be date of award to December 31, 2013.

**3. Description of Supplies or Services.** Coordination and management of high-resolution, leaf-off, color, digital, orthoimagery collection in the winter of 2013 for at least 14 counties in the central parts of Mississippi, including the high-priority Jackson urban area, under the generation of the Metro-2-Metro Aerial Photography (M2MAP) Consortium. This orthoimagery data acquisition and management activity is part of a unified and coordinated countywide, multi-participant, one year effort. Hinds County, Mississippi Economic Development Authority will coordinate and manage acquisition, quality assurance, and delivery of the orthoimagery to USGS and other partners.

USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) has a cyclical need for high-resolution (one-foot or better), leaf-off, color aerial orthoimagery across the country to support National Map, homeland security, natural resource assessment and management, and coordinated emergency and disaster response. USGS also supports requirements from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for current imagery for high-priority U.S. urban and military areas. Existing leaf-off imagery for this specific area of Mississippi is several years old. Acquisition of suitable and commonly shared replacement imagery has been identified as a critical need by both NGP and NGA.

**4. Estimated Dollar Value.** The dollar value of this award is not to exceed \$ 45,000.

**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"

This sole source award through the authorized spatial data coordination body at the state level is also supported under guidance pursuant to OMB circular A-16; EO 12906 "Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities" and under policy guidance from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to promote coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis as part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

**6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.** The Hinds County, Mississippi Economic Development Authority serves as the authorized and recognized coordinating entity for the

Metro-2-Metro Aerial Photography (M2MAP) Consortium in central, Mississippi. The M2MAP Consortium was created in response to the critical need for coordination in the development and use of digital spatial data. The M2MAP Consortium encourages GIS activities that enhance the development and use of reliable digital spatial data through communication, coordination and collaboration. The Hinds County, Mississippi Economic Development Authority coordinates state initiatives with federal and local government efforts.

USGS partnership for Mississippi County imagery with Hinds County, Mississippi Economic Development Authority, as the authorized coordination body at the state level, is supported under guidance pursuant to OMB circular A-16; HO 12906 "Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities" and under policy guidance from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to promote coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis as part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

Efforts to acquire similar Mississippi imagery products and services outside of the authorized coordinated effort provided by M2MAP Consortium will be much more expensive and inefficient for USGS and the Federal Government. Accomplishing this work ourselves, including the project management, data inspection, and other associated tasks would exceed \$543,573, and require significant staff time to complete. Working outside the M2MAP Consortium Aerial Photography Program coordinated project will also work against our goals for a coordinated NSDI and will result in redundant and competing framework datasets that can raise the potential for confusion over authoritative data sources used during crisis and disaster situations.

The Hinds County, Mississippi Economic Development Authority, in support of the M2MAP Consortium, is the only organization known to be leading a coordinated effort for acquiring and managing high-resolution, leaf-off, imagery meeting NGP and NGA requirements for this area of interest over the desired time period. Hinds County, Mississippi Economic Development Authority has worked with stakeholders to develop a unified data acquisition and management program for common imagery and related framework spatial data that efficiently meets the needs of government agencies, organizations, and citizens at all levels.

**7. Other Information.** The USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) works cooperatively with other agencies, including State and local governments, to develop a common set of geospatial framework data as part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and to support The National Map, M2MAP has been a longstanding partner in these efforts and has delivered products that met or exceeded the contract specifications in the past.

The USGS NGP in this partnership will only be paying a small portion 8% (\$45K/\$543,573) of the total amount needed to perform the acquisition of imagery over the area of interest. This will be a cost savings to USGS NGP of \$4.69 per sq. mi. vs \$56.69 per sq. mi. if USGS was to acquire the area of interest on its own. The M2MAP base level imagery meets requirements for USGS and NGA, but the additional data that is provided to USGS at no additional cost as part of M2MAP, higher resolution imagery, and color infrared imagery, is of substantial value to other units in USGS and the Federal Government. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was prepared and advertised by M2MAP. The RFP document was requested by and distributed to 25 vendors from all across the nation.

**8. The Efforts to Identify Additional Sources Including the Market Research Conducted.**

USGS NGP has extensive ortho-imagery knowledge through the Geospatial Products and Service Contracts (GPSC). Ongoing research by GPSC, to maintain understanding of technical and market options includes, but is not limited to, review of industry publications, commercial directories, source lists, interviews with other groups involved with acquisition of spatial data and serviced, examination and testing of sample products, participation in technical meetings and conferences, and additional inputs from government, industry, and academic experts and stakeholders.

The acquisition will be synopsised in Fcdbizopps (FBO) as required by FAR 5.201.

**9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.** The USGS continues to follow developments in the imagery industry, and competitively awards contracts for imagery acquisition to the maximum extent possible. Each project will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**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.

George Heleine  
USGS Geographer  
National Map Liaison to Alabama

  
Signature

4/23/13  
Date

**11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer**

- a. The contracting officer must include a determination that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable with a short statement for the basis of that determination. Price will be determined fair and reasonable by comparison to past procurement for similar items.
- b. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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David P Ouellette, Contracting Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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Jennifer Farrell, Bureau Competition Advocate

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Date