

*Noncompetitive Justification under Simplified Acquisition Threshold***NONCOMPETITIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION**

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 Reasonably Available".

2. Nature of Action Being Approved. This requisition is to renew a 1-year subscription to the CRU Publications listed in Section 3.

Proposed awardee:
 CRU International Ltd.
 31 Mount Pleasant
 London, WC1X 0AD, UK
 +44 20 7903 2146

3. Description of Supplies or Services.

Required services: Payment for a 1-year subscription to the following CRU publications:

- **Precious Metals Market Outlook (Quarterly)**
- **Bulk Ferroalloys Monitor**
- **Steel Metallies Monitor**
- **Copper Monitor and Copper Studies Publications**
- **Nickel Quarterly, Industry and Market Outlook**
- **Alumina & Aluminum Monitors and Market Outlook**
- **Tin, Lead and Zinc Monitors and Market Outlook**

Requiring Program Office: Mineral Commodity Specialists in the Mineral Commodities Section of the National Minerals Information Center in Reston, Virginia.

4. Estimated Dollar Value.

TOTAL COST: A 1-year subscription to CRU reports is \$79,584.

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 Reasonably Available".

6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.

Some specific examples of information (not all inclusive) that is not elsewhere available as needed in the timely and consolidated fashion that CRU furnishes are:

Precious Metals Market Outlook (Quarterly)

- Monthly short-term and long-term gold lease rates are only found in this report on a continuous basis for the last 12 months.
- COMEX gold-futures stocks and volume are found only in this report on a continuous basis for the last 12 months.
- This report is the only readily available source of quarterly NYMEX, COMEX, CBOT and TOCOM stocks of silver and platinum group metals.

Bulk Ferroalloys Monitor

- Review of domestic and world events of the preceding month in the steel industry.
- Detailed analyses of world markets of ferrosilicon, silico-manganese, ferromanganese, and silicon metal.

Steel Metallics Monitor

- Current prices of metallics in world markets.
- Monthly review and analyses of events in North America, Asia and Europe.

Copper Monitor and Copper Studies Publications

- The quarterly review is a unique compilation of company proprietary information, for subscribers only, on global mine, smelter, and refinery developments, and market supply/demand analyses.
- The quarterly review provides original market intelligence on copper concentrate supply/demand and pricing gathered from public sources.
- The quarterly review provides a unique, copyrighted multi-year capacity outlook for supply/demand analyses.
- Copper Studies provide market intelligence and regional reviews not published elsewhere and copyrighted articles on market segments also not found elsewhere.
- Copper Monitors provide market intelligence on copper products and raw materials not compiled elsewhere, including proprietary data on international mill product shipments and prices.

Nickel Quarterly, Industry and Market Outlook

- Medium-term forecasts of changes in demand for primary nickel, by trading bloc.
- Medium-term forecasts of world finished nickel production, by company.
- Forecasts of production for pressure-acid-leach mines and refineries in Oceania and Southeast Asia.
- Details on the status of Greenfield projects and brownfield expansions.

Alumina & Aluminum Monitors and Market Outlook

- The only source of comprehensive data on the capacity of and production from aluminum smelters and alumina refineries for several countries, especially China and Venezuela.
- Valuable source of news on proposed expansions of smelters and refineries.

Tin, Lead and Zinc Monitors and Market Outlook

- Tin production and consumption graphs and news items not found in other publications.
- Global lead production and capacity information at individual mine and plant level.
- Detailed lead production, capacity and consumption forecasts, project updates and analysis of trends in production and consumption at a country and regional level.
- Provides historical zinc data production and capacity data on a mine and smelter level.

Although there are numerous sources of information regarding a particular mineral commodity or a certain country and the minerals within that country, available information on a broader scale is non-existent, except for that from specific sources. CRU International, Ltd. is such a unique source. In

fact, the CRU publications (particularly the monthly ones) are the only publications known to offer current or worldwide minerals information and analysis on a broad scale in the form that is needed by NMIC to produce timely, periodic reports. Without the up-to-date information in these publications, NMIC mineral commodity and international minerals specialists would not be able to produce such timely and authoritative analysis of current trends and developments of minerals worldwide.

CRU is an internationally recognized standard for minerals industry information and is often used as a source and quoted by others in the industry. In addition, CRU furnishes proprietary information to subscribers that is not available elsewhere, such as market intelligence on product shipments and production and price forecasts.

7. Other Information.

Not applicable.

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

Through working within the industry regularly and over a long period of time, requestor is familiar with other potential sources. Those would not provide the depth, breadth, and scope of the CRU studies, which provide unique features, as outlined above.

9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.

Not applicable.

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]

Acting Chief,
Mineral Commodities Section

Signature

6/22/2015
Date

11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer:

a. The contracting officer has determined that the anticipated cost to the Government is fair and reasonable based on the comparison with previous year invoice provided by the vendor.

b. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Redacted Signature]

David P Ouellette, Contracting Officer

Date

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

[Redacted Signature]

Jennifer Farrell, Bureau Competition Advocate

Date

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) intends to make a non-competitive award to CRU International Ltd. located in 31 Mount Pleasant, London, WC1X0AD, United Kingdom for subscription renewal from August 01, 2013 through July 31, 2014

There are no option periods this time.

CRU International Ltd. is the only known source to offer current or worldwide mineral information and analysis on a broad scale in the form that is needed by National Minerals Information center to produce timely periodic reports. Without these publications, NMIC mineral commodity and International mineral specialists would not be able to produce such timely and authoritative analysis of current trends and developments of minerals worldwide.

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 541618. The size standard is \$14.0 million.

The anticipated award date of the contract is 07/22/2013. 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.