JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

Justification for Other than Full and Open Competition (FAR 13.1)

1. Contracting Agency and Activity. The Department of the Interior (DOI), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Office of Acquisition and Grants plans to contract by means other than full and open competition. This document sets forth the justification and approval for use of one of the exceptions to full and open competition allowed under the Competition in Contracting Act (CICA) of 1984.

2. Nature of Action Being Approved. Firm-fixed price direct award to continue Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) membership in the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association by payment of annual dues.

This membership was last purchased in April 2012 under Purchase Order GX12PX00454 in the amount of $9,000.00.

Period of performance: From date of award for one year thereafter.

3. Description of Supplies or Services. The GSDI Association supports the successful advancement of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The U.S. Geological Survey hosts the FGDC Secretariat and manages the U.S. NSDI. The GSDI association supports newsletters, grants, workshops and conference programs and activities for the global SDI community. The GSDI Association has an established global network of regional SDI committees: Permanent Committee for Geographic Information Systems in the Asia and Pacific, Permanent Committee for Geographic Information in the Americas, Committee on Data Implementation in Africa, and the European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information. This network is uniquely positioned to support the FGDC international mission.

4. Estimated Dollar Value. Annual membership dues are $9,000.

5. Statutory Authority. The proposed action may be awarded without full and open competition under 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(1) as implemented in FAR 13.106-1(b)(1), Only One Source Reasonably Available.

6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5. Organizational membership renewal is sought with the GSDI Association as they represent a unique global organization. The GSDI Association is the only known organization that aligns itself with advancing GSDI in the global community. The GSDI Association has an established global network of regional SDI committees: Permanent Committee for Geographic Information Systems in the Asia and Pacific, Permanent Committee for Geographic Information in the Americas, Committee on Data Implementation in Africa, and the European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information. This network is uniquely positioned to support successful GSDI advancement required by OMB Circular A-16. The membership service needed by this executive agency (USGS) is available from only this responsible source and no other type of property or services will satisfy the needs of the executive agency.

7. Other Information. The FGDC Secretariat is responsible for implementing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16 and related activities. This responsibility is focused on building the NSDI domestically but, includes building Spatial Data Infrastructures

(SDI) globally. More specifically, OMB Circular A-16 states: "The NSDI supports and advances the building of a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure …" The GSDI Association directly advances this global mission of the FGDC.

Because of the benefit brought in thinking globally about SDI matters, the DOI and USGS helped to convene meetings with the international community that led to the formation of the GSDI Association. Thus, the global prestige of the USGS would suffer if it could not continue its membership in this important association that it helped create.

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

The FGDC has been active in this field for over 15 years and is aware of international activities and communities of this type. There are no other known international organizations that are dedicated to advancing Spatial Data Infrastructures [an internet search conducted on 4/23/13 supports this statement]. This is why the Department of the Interior helped to organize and create the GSDI Association.

9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.

There are no other known international or domestic organizations that are dedicated to advancing SDI. The GSDI association is uniquely positioned to carry out this important international work. Encouraging duplicative international membership organizations would not be a desirable condition. It is anticipated the FGDC will remain a GSDI member for the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, FGDC will continue to monitor for changes in this area and compete future requirements to the maximum extent practicable.

10. Recommendation and Certification from Program Office

Based on the above, I recommend this acquisition be conducted on the basis of other than full and open competition. I certify that technical data which form a basis for this justification that are the responsibility of technical or requirements personnel are complete and accurate.

acting for [redacted]

5/22/12
Date

11. Certifications and Approval of Contracting Officer:

Only one source appears to be reasonably available for this procurement. The anticipated cost to the Government is expected to be fair and reasonable, as this year's membership dues of $9,000.00 are equal to last year's dues; accordingly, there has been no increase to compensate for inflation. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[redacted]

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