

*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 for 2 users to Metal Bulletin.

Proposed Awardee:  
Metal Bulletin Ltd.  
Nestor House, Playhouse Yard  
London, EC4V 5EX  
Tel: +44 20 7779 8710

**3. Description of Supplies or Services.** The Mineral Commodity Specialists in the Mineral Commodities Section of the National Minerals Information Center in Reston, VA, request payment for a 1-year subscription renewal to Metal Bulletin, which offers up-to-date Metal Bulletin prices, archive access (10 years), daily email alerts, and hard-copy weekly information on metal markets.

**4. Estimated Dollar Value. Total Cost:** A 1-year renewal to Metal Bulletin for 2 users (electronic and paper) = US\$5,700 (US\$2,850 each).

**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.** Metal Bulletin is the only source for a wide range of timely information on global steel and metals news and processes, with a focus on the European market. The Metal Bulletin and archives subscription offers online up-to-date pricing for a wide variety of ferrous and nonferrous metals, archive access (10 years), daily email alerts and hard copy weekly information on iron and steel markets, nonferrous metals markets, scrap and secondary markets, minor metals, light metals, ferroalloys, steel, stainless steel, and steelmaking raw materials. Metal Bulletin has a specific focus on European and secondary (scrap) markets that are not available in one place from other information sources to which NMIC specialists have access. With globalization of metal markets, and the increased emphasis on recycling and recycling technology, Metal Bulletin is a vital source of information.

**7. Other Information.**  
Not applicable.

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

NMIC specialists have searched for similar data available from other private firms, governments, and NGOs, and have found that no comparable comprehensive information is available in one place. The specialists have searched for sources on the Internet and reviewed industry publications, such as Platt's Metals Week and American Metal Market. Although these sources provide some data on ferrous and nonferrous metals, they do not provide the comprehensive coverage of the European market that is available in Metal Bulletin. In FY12, the PR for Metal Bulletin was competed, and no other valid source was found.

**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]

7/22/2013  
Date

Mineral Commodities Section

**11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer:**

a. The contracting officer has determined that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable based on the comparison of previous year Purchase order G12PX01107. This year unit price is slightly higher because of the multiple user savings is no longer applicable due to drop in multiple user account to two.

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

[Redacted Signature]

David J. Sweeney, Contracting Officer

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