

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

LIMITED SOURCE JUSTIFICATION FOR FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE (FSS) AWARD (FAR 8.4)

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 FAR 8.405-6, "Limited Source".

2. Nature of Action Being Approved. The USGS - Woods Hole Coastal & Marine Science Center (WHSC) requires a firm fixed price (via GSA schedule: GS-35F-0525K), non-recurring award- with no option years necessary, to purchase additional licenses of the CARIS HIPS/SIPS bathymetric processing software package. The proposed vendor is CARIS USA of Alexandria, VA.

3. Description of Supplies or Services. CARIS is the internationally recognized leader in the scientific, government and commercial communities providing software to process single-beam, swath bathymetry (multibeam and interferometric sonars), and multibeam/interferometric sonar backscatter. Several new field programs and been approved by the USGS Coastal and Marine Program (CMGP) using post Hurricane Sandy federal funding. These efforts will produce large volumes of bathymetric/backscatter data that will require more personnel and software licenses to effectively handle the anticipated data volumes collected by these field efforts.

4. Estimated Dollar Value. The estimated dollar amount for this acquisition is \$42,210.00.

5. Statutory Authority. The proposed action may be awarded on a sole source basis in accordance with FAR 8.405-6 "Limited Sources."

6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5. CARIS USA maintains proprietary rights to the CARIS HIPS/SIPS software. They do not distribute their products to third party vendors for distribution, and therefore, are the only vendor able to provide licenses for their HIPS/SIPS bathymetric processing software.

7. Other Information. The USGS WHSC currently has three CARIS HIPS/SIPS licenses (G12PD01086), however three additional licenses are required to effectively handle the future bathymetric/backscatter data collected for the post-Sandy field efforts. Utilizing the CARIS software suite to process and quality control swath bathymetric data collected by WHSC personnel is critical to the success of on-going Coastal and Marine Geology Program projects both in terms of timely completion of project objectives, and for data sharing compatibility with collaborators and customers that utilize the CARIS software suite. The HIPS/SIPS software packages enable WHSC personnel to process all bathymetric data sets (single-beam, multibeam, and interferometric) collected during programmatically funded field efforts in the most efficient and time-effective manner. Additionally, because the CARIS software suite is utilized by other federal government agencies (i.e. NOAA), additional CARIS licenses will give needed flexibility

in the exchange of data and information. This will streamline existing, and future, cooperatives by yielding an integrated and seamless path for the exchange of all data. As an example, NOAA readily supplies approved hydrographic surveys for our research efforts, and the HIPS/SIPS software allows our researchers to examine and utilize the NOAA data very efficiently as NOAA does not need to reformat their data in any way for us.

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

No other sources were or could be considered since CARIS is the sole manufacturer/supporter/distributor for the CARIS HIPS/SIPS software.

9. Actions to Overcome Barriers to Competition. The Reston Acquisition Branch will continue to recommend using the provisions of Brand Name or Equal to maximize competition for marine field equipment and services rather than encouraging the routine submission of Brand Name Justification and Approval requests.

The USGS – WHSC conducts market research on a regular basis. However, the CARIS software suite is proprietary software product and the company retains the rights to distribute the software and does not plan to provide third parties the right to sell software maintenance to customers. Thus no future plans are in place to permit competition since CARIS is the only company that sells and distributes HIPS/SIPS and BASE editor software products and maintenance.

10. Recommendation and Certification from 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.

*William C. Schwab
for Bill Danforth*

William Danforth
Geologist


Signature

6/20/2013
Date

11. Certifications and Approval 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 fair and reasonable will be based on GSA pricing.

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

Dave Ouellette, Contracting Officer

Date

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

Stacey Diamond, Chief, Reston Acquisition Branch,
Assistant Bureau Competition Advocate

Date