

The U.S. Geological Survey intends to make a non-competitive award to Platts, located in Two Penn , New York, NY for one year subscription of Platts Metals Daily reports, to be delivered to USGS, Minerals Division within 30 days of award.

There are no option periods.

Platts required to provide one year subscription of Platts daily metals report.

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 or fax to 703-648-7899. Emailed responses are preferred.

The NAICS code is 511110. The size standard is 500 employees.

The anticipated award date of the contract is 02/05/2014. The anticipated contract will be firm fixed-price. A vendor must be registered at <http://www.sam.gov> to be awarded the contract.

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. A non-competitive firm fixed price procurement for a 1-year subscription of Platts Metals Daily reports (a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies).

Proposed awardee:

Platts

Client Financial Relations

Two Penn Plaza, 25th Floor

New York, NY 10121

Tel: 800-PLATTS8

3. Description of Supplies or Services. The USGS Mineral Commodity Specialists in the Mineral Commodities Section of the National Minerals Information Center in Reston, Virginia require a 1-year subscription to Platts Metals Daily reports, an online daily report that provides daily news and pricing on a broad range of metal mineral commodities. The subscription also includes weekly and monthly price summaries.

4. Estimated Dollar Value. The expected total value of this procurement is \$3,850.00.

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.

Platts Metals Daily provides unique features not readily available elsewhere, including price series on a broad range of metal commodities. Many of the price series are developed by Platts Daily through direct contact with vendors, merchants, and producers and are their unique research product. The USGS has long recognized Platts Daily and its predecessor, Platts Metals Week, as an authoritative source of price data not available elsewhere, and USGS mineral commodity specialists have used its price data in long-established historical price series and in valuing U.S. minerals production. The USGS cites these price data in numerous monthly, quarterly, and annual publications. In addition to price data, Platt's daily provides mineral industry news, including unique interviews with market participants and analyses of market events. Platts covers a broad spectrum of metal industry news, including news and analyses of specialty metals markets that are not available elsewhere. Platts price data and news features on minor or specialty metals are especially important as many of these materials are used in electronic applications and scarcity of supply has become a growing concern given global competition for raw materials and their unique role in renewable energy production.

- The information in Platts Daily enhances mineral commodity specialists' understanding of issues and activities in the metals industry and is regularly cited in USGS publications.

- It is important for mineral commodity specialists to have up-to-date information provided electronically in the Platts metals Daily reports in order that they be conversant with customers and be able to be responsive to issues that arise within their respective industries.
- The subscription helps mineral commodity specialists gather valuable information, enhancing their expertise in their role as principal USGS contact point for the mineral commodities to which they are assigned, and in reporting on important industry developments through monthly, quarterly, and annual USGS publications.
- Platts provides unique and distinctive news and pricing data on the primary and secondary metals industry, with a focus on pricing in the United States, but also includes international pricing.

7. Other Information.

Not applicable.

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

Through working in minerals information regularly for more than 20 years, the requestor is familiar with other potential sources, such as American Metal Market and Ryan's Notes. These publications do not provide the unique combination of price intelligence and breadth and scope of developments within the metals industry in the United States and in a global setting that Platts reports provide on a daily basis.

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.

Patricia Loferski
Acting Chief,
Mineral Commodities Section



Signature

2-3-15

Date

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 the price paid for the same item purchased in the previous year under the Award # G13PX00226.
- b. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



David P Ouellette, 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