

## JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

### Sole Source Justification/Brand Name Justification Simplified Acquisition Procedures (FAR 13.1)

**1. Contracting Agency and Activity.** The Department of the Interior (DOI), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Office of Acquisition and Grants (OAG) 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.**

The procurement in question is for the Geospatial Operational Environmental Satellites – R Series (GOES-R) Dual Pilot Control Module (DPCM) replacement of the Emergency Data Distribution Network (EDDN) located at Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The vendor, Microcom Design, Inc., is the proposed provider of this equipment.

#### **3. Description of Supplies or Services.**

The vendor will provide two replacement DPCMs for the EDDN receiver system. The modules will be shipped to EROS and the replaced units will be returned to the vendor.

#### **4. Estimated Dollar Value.**

The estimated cost of this procurement will be \$19,950.

**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(b)(1) “only one source reasonably available.

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

The EDDN receives vital data that is used to protect life and property throughout the Western Hemisphere. The USGS Water Science Centers are all connected to this receive system to acquire real-time data to perform their mission. Procurement of these modules ensures a healthy operational system that needs to be available 24 x 7 x 365.

Microcom Design Inc. is the only vendor that can provide these modules. The receivers and demodulators used in the EDDN are their design. They are not COTS radios but were purpose-built by Microcom engineers specifically for GOES DCS message reception.

The other vendors of this type of equipment (Sutron and Signal Engineering) have produced radically different radio designs that are not compatible with the Microcom system.

**7. Other Information.**

All the hardware and software for the Microcom-designed system were created by Microcom and are therefore proprietary.

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

Market research was conducted by me this month (July 2015). Two other companies work in this sector of satellite telemetry receivers. Sutron Corporation and Signal Engineering produce fine receiver systems. However, their designs and software are radically different from Microcom's.

They also do not have the system or operational knowledge of the Microcom receivers as this knowledge is company proprietary.

**9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.**

Competition may be allowed at the end of this contract as the radio system could be at the end of its operational life. Nevertheless, future needs will be competed 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.



Daniel Schwitalla  
EDDN Program Manager

21 Jan 16  
Date

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

- a. A trade in credit is being applied to the list price of these modules. This results in a discount of 33.17% off the list price and therefore represents the best value to the Government.
- b. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

## 12. Approvals

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Andres Castro, Contracting Officer

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Date