BRAND NAME JUSTIFICATION

The brand being purchased is Qiagen, a commercial provider of genomic data solutions, including the Human Gene Mutation Database (HGMD) Professional software and associated support services. Qiagen HGMD is used by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), Undiagnosed Diseases Program (UDP), to support genomic analysis and identification of disease-causing mutations in patient samples.

Qiagen HGMD Professional is a core component of the UDP genomic analysis environment and is integrated into the existing exome and whole genome sequencing pipeline. The database provides a comprehensive, curated collection of human gene mutation data that enables researchers to efficiently identify, analyze, and interpret genetic variants associated with inherited diseases.

The HGMD Professional platform provides capabilities that are essential to NHGRI operations, including access to a curated mutation dataset, advanced search functionality, and the ability to download and locally integrate the database into existing analytical workflows. These capabilities allow UDP researchers to maintain continuity of operations, ensure data accuracy, and support timely diagnosis and research outcomes while minimizing disruption to ongoing studies.

While alternative genomic databases exist in the commercial marketplace, market research determined that no alternative product provides full compatibility with NHGRI's existing HGMD-integrated analysis pipeline or offers the same combination of curated data and downloadable database functionality. Qiagen HGMD is proprietary, and licensing, updates, and technical support are exclusively available through Qiagen. Transitioning to an alternative solution would require significant reconfiguration of the analysis pipeline, retraining of personnel, and extensive validation efforts, resulting in unacceptable delays and disruption to mission-critical research activities. Qiagen HGMD Professional is the only product capable of meeting the Government's validated technical and operational requirements for this acquisition.