DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification for Single Source Awards IAW FAR 6.103-1
For
Over Micro-Purchase Threshold but Not Exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold

Acquisition Plan Action ID: VA-26-00066968

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network/Program Contracting Office 04, located at 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19805, in support of VISN 04 VA Health Care System at 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19805

2. **Brief Description of Supplies/ Services required and the intended use/Estimated Amount:** The requirement is for two (2) Brand Name Only FOLLET Refrigerators (REF45-BB-00000G), including all associated components, accessories, and delivery.

   [redacted]

3. **Unique characteristics that limit availability to only one source, with the reason no other supplies or services can be used:**
   Follett REF45-BB-00000G refrigerator is a specialized cooling unit designed for storing temperature-sensitive materials, such as biological samples, chemicals, and reagents, in research, medical, and scientific laboratories.

   VAMC currently has a few brands of refrigerators but predominantly Follett, which have an excellent track record at our facility. Further, the Heating-Ventilation and Air conditioning department (HVAc) staff are well versed with Follett refrigerator preventive maintenance and repairs. Purchase of additional Follett refrigerator will help VAMC unify a brand and hence maintaining a stock of spare parts for any repairs will be cost effective and will result in quicker turnaround when any breakdown occurs.

   All of our medical refrigerators used in the VAMC are monitored using a program TEMP TRAK. All Follett refrigerators are compatible with the existing temperature monitoring program.

   Based on the compliance standards outlined in VHA Notice 2021-02, the specifications of the Follett REF25 meet or exceed the requirements. The Follett REF45-BB-00000G is considered an excellent, high-performance refrigerator for laboratory and pharmaceutical usage because it combines precise, uniform

temperature control with strict regulatory compliance, durability, and advanced data monitoring capabilities.

4. **Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:** Market research confirms no commercially available equal products can meet these minimum needs. Market research was conducted through product comparison reviews, vendor materials, prior procurement history, and inquiries with multiple manufacturers. While other vendors produce blood bank refrigerators, none provide the combined capabilities, safety features, and interoperability required, and the refrigerators are not able to be monitored by VA systems.

   Recommendation:

   The Laboratory Service at the Wilmington VAMC requires the Follett REF25 laboratory-grade refrigerator to ensure full compliance with regulatory requirements, maintain the integrity of critical specimens and reagents, and support unification of the brand and continuous, safe clinical operations. No consumer-grade or non-laboratory-specific refrigerator can meet the performance, monitoring, and compliance standards required for VA laboratory environments.

   The Follett REF25 laboratory refrigerator is mission-critical equipment necessary to maintain compliance, protect diagnostic integrity, and support uninterrupted clinical operations. No non-laboratory refrigerator meets the standards required for a VA laboratory environment. Procuring this unit ensures safety, reliability, and regulatory adherence for all temperature-sensitive materials handled by the Wilmington VAMC Laboratory Service.

5. **Contracting Officer's Certification:** *Purchase is approved in accordance with FAR 6.103-1. I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

ANDREA AULTMAN-SMITH
Digitally signed by ANDREA AULTMAN-SMITH
Date: 2026.06.16 12:22:15 -04'00'

Andrea Aultman-Smith
Contracting Officer

June 16, 2026
Date