DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER AIRCRAFT DIVISION
21983 BUNDY ROAD BLDG 441
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670-1127

IN REPLY REFER TO
J&A 26-0243

JUSTIFICATION FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity.

Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWC-AD) Patuxent River, MD

2. Description of the Action Being Approved.

This Justification for Exception to Fair Opportunity (JEFO) authorizes and approves the award of a sole source Task Order (TO) to Airborne Tactical Advantage Company (ATAC), [redacted] on the Terminal Attack Controller Training (TACT) Multiple Award-Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (MA/IDIQ) Contract. This Firm-Fixed Price (FFP) TO award is for United States Marine Corps (USMC) Burmese Chase training requirements utilizing ATAC's [redacted] TurboProp aircraft in support of dry and live Contracted Close Air Support (CCAS) training.

3. Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs (including the estimated value).

This TO will provide contractor owned and operated aircraft to fulfill the critical requirements for CCAS services in support of PMA-226's USMC Burmese Chase 2026 Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) training requirements at Camp Lejeune, NC. The contractor's responsibilities will consist of providing high-performance turbo propeller aircraft, aircrew, maintenance personnel, and all associated support required to conduct dry Simulated Close Air Support (SimCAS) or live CCAS operations in both day and night conditions. This TO contains a specific requirement for high-performance turboprop aircraft capable of supporting Type 1 and Type 2 controls, Night Vision Device (NVD) aided operations, live ordnance delivery profiles utilizing MK-76 and/or BDU-33 training munitions, and sustained Time on Station (TOS) requirements in support of multiple overlapping training flows.

The estimated Period of Performance (PoP) for this task order is 27 July 2026 to 26 July 2027.

The total estimated value of this contract action is $755,010.00 and is anticipated to be funded as set forth in the below table.

Estimated Dollar Value

Table 1			
Funding Type	**(38) Flight Hours**	**Reimbursable**	**Total Estimated Price**
O&M-MC	[redacted]	[redacted]	$755,010.00

4. Identification of the Justification Rationale and Demonstration of the Proposed Contractor's Unique Qualifications to Provide the Required Supply or Service.

In accordance with FAR 16.507-6(b)(2), an exception to fair opportunity is justified as only one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized.

The Government's market research determined that the USMC Burmese Chase 2026 training mission specifically requires high-performance turboprop aircraft. Of the four (4) CAS TACT MAC prime contractors, ATAC is the only contractor with NAWC-AD contracting office approved subcontractor agreements in place with vendors capable of providing turboprop aircraft that satisfy the Government's requirements. ATAC's established and approved relationships with [redacted] and [redacted] provide the only available path within the CAS TACT MAC to furnish the required turboprop capability.

ATAC is the only responsible source capable of satisfying this requirement without unacceptable delays. Attempting to use another CAS TACT MAC contractor would require them to identify, establish and onboard a new subcontractor with the required turboprop aircraft. This process of vetting and gaining the necessary NAWC-AD approvals would introduce significant schedule risk and administrative lead time, jeopardizing the critical training window for the USMC Burmese Chase 2026 exercise.

5. A Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable.

Under the CAS TACT MAC, rates were not estimated at the base contract level; rather, pricing is evaluated and fair and reasonable determinations are made at the individual task order level. To make this determination, the proposal will be reviewed by experienced technical analysts, contract specialists, and/or cost analysts, as necessary. The Contracting Officer will employ appropriate price analysis techniques such as comparing the proposed prices to historical prices paid for similar services, comparing the proposed prices to the Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE), or analyzing specific cost elements to establish a definitive basis for determining a fair and reasonable price prior to award.

6. Any other Facts Supporting the Justification

As noted in paragraph 4 above, ATAC is the only CAS TACT MAC contractor capable of providing the required turboprop aircraft for the Burmese Chase 2026 mission. The remaining MAC Contractors do not possess approved subcontractor agreements capable of providing turboprop aircraft and therefore cannot satisfy the Government's requirement within the required timeframe.

7. A Statement of the Actions the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers that Led to the Exception to Fair Opportunity before any Subsequent Acquisition for the Supplies or Services is Made.

The Government will continue to assess the capabilities of all CAS TACT MAC contractors and

conduct market research to identify additional sources capable of meeting future Burmese Chase requirements.

Prior to subsequent acquisitions, the Government will evaluate whether evolving aircraft capabilities, operational approvals, mission systems integration, and contractor experience have reduced barriers to competition and may permit broader consideration of qualified contractors. The Government will also continue to review industry capabilities and acquisition strategies to maximize competition to the greatest extent practicable for future requirements.

CERTIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL

TECHNICAL/REQUIREMENTS CERTIFICATION

I certify that the facts and representations under my cognizance which are included in this Justification and its supporting acquisition planning documents, except as noted herein are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Technical/Requirements Cognizance:

[redacted]

Signature Name (Printed) Phone No. Date

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY REVIEW

I have determined this Justification is legally sufficient.

[redacted]

Signature Name (Printed) Phone No. Date

CONTRACTING OFFICER CERTIFICATION

I certify that this Justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[redacted]

Signature Name (Printed) Phone No. Date