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J&A Number: 25-0119

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL FOR USE OF OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity.

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) Point Mugu, CA

2. Description of the Action Being Approved.

This Justification and Approval (J&A) authorizes and approves the sole source award of an Indefinite-Delivery, Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC), located at 1575 S. Price Road, Chandler, Arizona. The contract will provide engineering services supporting aerial target operations and maintenance of the GQM-163A for NAWCWD and the Pacific Targets and Marine Operations (PTMO), Division, Point Mugu, California. This J&A is a follow-on to a previously approved J&A (J&A 17-0020) supporting a contract awarded in February 2018 on a sole-source basis.

3. Description of Supplies/Services.

The anticipated contract supports Operations & Maintenance (O&M) activities for Ground Launch Drone Missile (GQM-163A) aerial target system for both Department of Defense (DoD) and Foreign Military Sales (FMS) sponsors (testing activities). The GQM-163A is a Supersonic Sea Skimming Target (SSST) with High Diver (HD) capability. It is an expendable, ducted rocket powered target capable of flying at low and high altitudes and supersonic speeds. The GQM-163A system includes the GQM-163A vehicle, the MK70 Mod 1 booster, the MK7 Mod 1 launcher or 4K3 launcher, and required Ground Support Equipment (GSE). GQM-163A targets are launched from modified MK 7 Mod 1 TALOS dual-arm launchers employing automated launch control hardware. The scope of the anticipated contract includes the delivery of flight trajectories and technical data packages associated with GQM-163A aerial target launches as required, as well as operation, maintenance, and loading of GQM-163A targets onto launcher(s) prior to target launch.

The estimated total dollar value associated is $99M. See table below for estimated dollar value.

Estimated Dollar Value

Funding/Appropriation	FY26-30 Total ($M)
Total	$99

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other Than Full and Open Competition.

10 U.S.C. 3204(b)(B)(ii), Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.

5. Rationale Justifying Use of Cited Statutory Authority.

In accordance with FAR 6.302-1(a)(2)(iii)(B), the award of a contract for these follow-on services to any other source would result in unacceptable delays in fulfilling the agency's requirement.

Orbital ATK (also known as Orbital Sciences LLC) was the original designer, developer, and manufacturer of the GQM-163A. Orbital ATK was acquired by NGC on 6 Jun 2018. As such, NGC is the only qualified source that possesses the requisite knowledge of the GQM-163A operational systems that can apply the developmental changes necessary for O&M target operations and updates based on specific test parameters. Additionally, only NGC has the expertise to configure, prepare, and operate the target during the target operation.

The Government does not possess the expertise or the required data rights needed to conduct a competitive procurement to replace the GQM-163A target or the ability to perform the necessary O&M, to include the target operations, launch efforts and target trajectory deliverables.

6. Description of Efforts Made to Solicit Offers from as Many Offerors as Practicable.

In accordance with DFARS PGI 206.302-1(d), a Sources Sought announcement was posted to Contract Opportunities in SAM.gov on 24 October 2024. No responses were received. In accordance with FAR 5.201(b)(1), the proposed contract was synopsized under Contract Opportunities in SAM.gov on 12 November 2024, and no other potential sources expressed an interest in this requirement. Another sources sought was issued on 22 April 2025, and no responses were received. Any future responses will be evaluated by the Contracting Officer prior to the contract award.

After conducting thorough market research for other companies that could provide the services, there were no capable sources identified as there are no other supersonic targets currently on the market that meet the capabilities required by USN Fleet customers. The results of the market research were coordinated with PMA-208 and PTMO was advised that PMA-208 concurred that there were no competitors to NGC for these services in the current market.

7. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Cost.

The Contracting Officer has determined the anticipated cost to the Government of the supplies/services covered by this J&A will be fair and reasonable.

8. Actions to Remove Barriers to Future Competition.

For the reasons set forth in Paragraph 5, NAWCWD has no plans at this time to compete future contracts for the types of services covered by this document. If another potential source emerges, NAWCWD will assess whether competition for future requirements is feasible. To increase the

potential for competition, NAWCWD has continued to engage with the TPO and PMA-208 planning efforts for new targets and capabilities.

As this is a follow-on for supplies and services previously awarded on a non-competitive basis, in accordance with DFARS PGI 206.304(a)(S-70)(i), the prior J&A was provided to the approval authority for review. Approval of this J&A signifies the approval authority has determination required by DFARS PGI 206.304(a)(S-70)(ii).