[redacted]

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

Under Authority of 10 U.S.C. § 3204(a)(3)
COLD WEATHER COMBAT BOOT (CWCB)

1. Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support, Clothing and Textiles (C&T) Supply Chain, is the contracting activity.

2. The action being approved is the ability to solicit for the Cold Weather Combat Boot on an Other than Full and Open Competition basis.

3. Following are the supplies required to meet DLA's needs:

Item: Cold Weather Combat Boot
National Stock Numbers (NSNs): 8430-01-693-6925 / PGC: 04154
Manufacturer: Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company (CAGE: 90976)
Quantity: [redacted]
Estimated Unit Price: $[redacted]
Number of Options: N/A
Estimated Maximum Total Dollar Value: $2,461,350.00

4. The applicable statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 10 U.S.C. 3204(a)(3), as implemented by Class Deviation 2026-O0017 Revision 1-Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Overhaul Part 6, Defense FAR Supplement (DFARS) Part 206, and Revolutionary FAR Overhaul Part 6.103-3, Industrial mobilization; engineering, development, or research capabilities; or expert services.

5. The use of this authority is necessary to maintain the availability of Cold Weather Combat Boot, and a specialized and critical boot component, for future requirements for the military services, as allowed by FAR 6.103-3(b)(1), which authorizes maintaining a facility, manufacturer, or supplier available for furnishing supplies in case of a national emergency or to achieve industrial mobilization.

This action is required to keep production lines operational for the only current manufacturer of this boot, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company, as well as production lines of its supplier of a specialized and critical boot component. The Cold Weather Combat Boot is a critical piece of equipment for Warfighters operating in cold, wet, and rugged environments. This boot's unique design keeps Warfighters' feet warmer and drier with its waterproof and breathable characteristics while also providing better ankle support and protection compared to the normal combat boot.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] there are concerns regarding the availability of specialized components used in this boot if production lines were to stop at the component manufacturer's facility. After conducting additional market research, it was determined that there is a specialized component of this boot that is not utilized in other combat boots. If the production line of this component shut down, it would result in increased lead times for future boot orders, which would, in turn, risk stock depletion. This contract will ensure that the industrial base is prepared to respond to the military services' need for the Cold Weather Combat Boot in the event of troop mobilization, contingency operation, and/or war.

Market research has confirmed that Vibram Corporation is the only manufacturer of the specialized outsoles used in the production of this boot. This outsole differs from others as its rubber composition can provide flexibility and traction with deep lugs for gripping ice/snow in extreme temperatures as it is formulated to sustain -20°C temperatures. If this production line ceases operation due to a gap in contracts, the industrial base will be negatively impacted in terms of extended employee layoffs of skilled operators and increased production lead times.

Companies within the footwear industrial base consistently struggle with onboarding and retaining skilled operators due to competitive job opportunities in the same geographical area that require less physical labor, which is more attractive to the labor pool. It is also difficult to re-purpose production lines both at the component and end item facilities due to the specialized nature of this item. Additionally, the footwear industrial base is seeing a downturn in production requirements from the DoW for all footwear. Restarting a specialized production line for cold weather gear is a complex and time-consuming process that would lead to significant delays and increased costs. Currently, the lead time for this component is an average of twelve (12) weeks, but if the component production lines shut down, the lead time for end items will increase substantially due to delays getting back into the production queue at the component manufacturer level. This could jeopardize the availability of essential footwear for military personnel once the contract for the future sustainment requirement for this boot is awarded in December 2026.

There is currently one (1) contract for this boot, SPE1C1-22-D-1570 awarded to Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company (currently the only producer of the Cold Weather Combat Boot), and the ordering period under the contract has ended. Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company's production line for this boot will cease operations [redacted] if additional orders are not received, and production lines at the facilities of its component manufacturer, Vibram Corporation, will cease [redacted]. If additional orders are not received, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company will lay off [redacted] employees. This proposed contract will avoid the need for employee layoffs by allowing production to continue during the time between the final delivery under contract SPE1C1-22-D-1570 and the first delivery under the competitively awarded sustainment contract, which is estimated to be awarded in December 2026. The production lead time under the competitive acquisition is five (5) months – putting the first delivery in May 2027, assuming there are no production issues.

Historically, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company is the only company that has produced this item. In accordance with FAR 6.103-3(b)(1), full and open competition need not be provided for when it is necessary to award a contract to a particular source in order to maintain a facility, manufacturer, or other supplier available for furnishing supplies in case of a national emergency or to achieve industrial mobilization. As Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company is the only

current manufacturer of this critical item, keeping its production lines open until deliveries under the future sustainment contract will be made will keep these vital facilities, manufacturers, and suppliers viable and ensure the availability of this boot. Additionally, this contract will prevent the loss of Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company's skilled workforce from being laid off and seeking employment elsewhere. There is no guarantee that Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company could rehire these employees should it be awarded the competitive contract in December 2026 and the additional learning curve for employees to produce this item may result in increased costs and lead times to the Government.

This acquisition is not for the purpose of fulfilling an immediate supply need, [redacted]. Instead, its explicit purpose is to keep vital production lines active, thereby preserving the viability of this manufacturer to furnish this boot in case of a national emergency or to achieve industrial mobilization. This action aligns with FAR 6.103-3(b)(1).

6. In accordance with FAR 5.101(b)(2), this requirement will not be synopsized as it is being procured using other than full and open competition under the authority of FAR 6.103-3(b)(1), Industrial Mobilization. This Justification, however, will be made available for public inspection, with redactions, as necessary, within fourteen (14) days after contract award, in accordance with FAR 6.301.

Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company is the only known manufacturer that can meet the requirements for the Cold Weather Combat Boot. Accordingly, and because this procurement is intended to keep this incumbent contractor's production lines operational, no additional efforts were taken to solicit offers from other potential sources. A competitive, long-term acquisition was recently synopsized on August 18, 2025, and other interested parties will have the opportunity to submit an offer under the forthcoming solicitation.

7. As the contracting officer, I hereby determine that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable based on a price analysis technique in FAR 15.404-1, including favorable comparison to previously awarded prices, which were based on adequate price competition. If necessary, certified cost and/or pricing data and/or other than certified cost and/or pricing data will be requested from Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company to determine the prices to be fair and reasonable.

8. DLA Troop Support did not conduct additional market research. Market research was conducted in August 2025 for the upcoming competitive acquisition which shows multiple companies are interested; however, due to the supply position, a procurement was not started prior to this date. This procurement is utilizing the authority of FAR 6.103-3(b)(1) to maintain the only source currently producing the Cold Weather Combat Boot.

[redacted]

[redacted]

9. The subject procurement is designed to allow the supply chain to continue production for this critical item – which is necessary in the event of unforeseen customer demand increases. Continuing the production of the Cold Weather Combat Boot will allow the component supplier to continue production. Without additional orders, the component supplier may re-purpose its production lines, which will cause additional delays under the competitive contract once awarded.

10. Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company is the only firm currently making the Cold Weather Combat Boot and has expressed an interest in this acquisition. Other firms have expressed an interest in the competitive, long-term acquisition for the Cold Weather Combat Boot.

11. The Cold Weather Combat Boot is procured through competitive processes in normal situations. The solicitation for the future sustainment requirement for this boot is anticipated to be issued in April 2026 and will use full and open competition procedures. The acquisition is expected to be awarded in December 2026.

12. As the contracting officer, I hereby certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

3/18/2026
Date

[redacted]
Contracting Officer, Division Chief

I hereby certify that the requirements which form the basis of this justification are accurate, that these supplies meet the Government's needs in accordance with applicable specifications and that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

3/18/2026
Date

[redacted]
Supervisory Material Planner

I have reviewed this justification and recommend approval.

3/18/2026
Date

[redacted]
DLA Troop Support Competition Advocate

[redacted]