[redacted]

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

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

2. The action being approved is the ability to solicit for Advanced Combat Helmet, Second Generation (ACH GEN II) on an Other than Full and Open Competition basis.

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

   Item: Advanced Combat Helmet, Second Generation (ACH GEN II)

   Portion #1:
   National Stock Number (NSN) 8470-01-662-5030 (Size Small) – 3,500 each
   NSN 8470-01-662-5038 (Size Medium) – 9,000 each
   NSN 8470-01-662-5026 (Size Large) – 9,500 each
   NSN 8470-01-662-5035 (Size Extra-Large) – 3,000 each
   Portion #1 Total Quantity – 25,000 each
   [redacted]

   [redacted]

4. The applicable statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 10 USC 3205(a)(3), as implemented by FAR 6.302-3 – Industrial Mobilization; Engineering, Developmental, or Research Capability; or Expert Services.

5. This procurement is designed to build and expand the industrial base for this critical safety item in case of a national emergency. In accordance with FAR 6.302-3(a)(2)(i), 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, producer, manufacturer, or other supplier available for furnishing supplies in case of a national emergency or to achieve industrial mobilization.

[redacted]

[redacted]

The purpose of this action is to add two additional vendors, ArmorSource, LLC (ArmorSource) and [redacted] capable of manufacturing the ACH GEN II to increase production capacity and meet the warfighter's needs for this critical safety item. Currently, there are only two vendors manufacturing the ACH GEN II, Avon Protection Ceradyne, LLC (Ceradyne) and Gentex Corporation (Gentex).

[redacted]. The purpose of this action is to add two additional vendors, ArmorSource [redacted] capable of manufacturing the ACH GEN II to increase production capacity and meet the warfighter's needs for this critical safety item.

Following is the current supply situation for the ACH GEN II:

[redacted]

The ACH GEN II is required to be manufactured in accordance with purchase description AR/PD 14-01 Rev Amendment 4, 07 MAR 2025 and Quality Assurance Annex. The ACH GEN II is a helmet designed to provide ballistic protection against small arms and fragmentation threats while reducing weight compared to the Legacy Advanced Combat Helmet (Legacy ACH) and the Lightweight Advanced Combat Helmet (LWACH), which are earlier generation helmets. The ACH GEN II was developed by the United States Army (Army) and utilizes polyethylene materials, resulting in a reduced weight while maintaining the same levels of fragmentation, ballistic, and impact protection as the Legacy ACH and LWACH. In addition to protection, the ACH GEN II is used as a platform to mount electronics such as communication devices and night vision devices. The ACH GEN II requires all ballistic and non-ballistic testing for First Article Testing (FAT) and Production Lot Testing (LOT) be conducted in accordance with U.S. Department of Defense Director, Operational Test & Evaluation (DOT&E) protocols. DOT&E protocol establishes standard testing references, protocol procedures, and analytical processes for combat helmet testing against ballistic requirements.

The ACH GEN II helmet serves as the Army's standard issue combat helmet, replacing the Legacy ACH and LWACH due to its reduced weight while maintaining ballistic protection for the warfighter. The ACH GEN II is also issued to the Army National Guard. In addition, the Navy, Air Force and Marines also use the ACH at a lower demand level.

[redacted]

The ACH GEN II supply package was submitted to DLA Troop Support (DLA TS) by the Army in late 2018 for sustainment without the Army successfully fielding the item, meaning that the ACH GEN II was never successfully manufactured by industry. The solicitation for the competitive acquisition, consisting of two (2) portions, was released to the DLA Internet Bid Board System (DIBBS) on February 12, 2020, and closed on August 11, 2020. The purpose of having two (2) portions was to ensure multiple sources of supply for this critical safety item. Both portions consist of a base year and four (4) one-year option periods. The first portion was awarded to Avon Protection Ceradyne, LLC (Ceradyne) on February 7, 2022, and the second portion was awarded to Gentex Corporation on October 18, 2022. Both Ceradyne and Gentex underwent the extensive FAT process and received FAT approval on December 7, 2023, and August 13, 2024, respectively. Ceradyne and Gentex started to ship their production units in March 2024 and April 2025, respectively. The proposed industrial mobilization awards will increase manufacturing capacity.

Prior to the 2022 ACH GEN II acquisition, DLA had not procured a ballistic helmet since the 2016 timeframe, when the LWACH was last acquired. Following that procurement, the Army identified the need for a lighter-weight ballistic helmet and a boltless retention system to reduce soldier load while maintaining protection levels. Additionally, due to a surplus of existing helmet inventory, a new acquisition effort was not immediately required. As existing stock levels declined and the need for a lighter-weight helmet emerged, DLA initiated the procurement for the ACH GEN II in August 2019 leading to the awards to Ceradyne and Gentex in February 2022 and October 2022, respectively. Ceradyne's last option is due to be invoked in February 2026 and the third option against Gentex's contract was invoked in October 2025. Ceradyne currently has monthly deliveries until December 2026 and Gentex deliveries are currently until April 2027.

Ceradyne and Gentex both produce the Next Generation Integrated Head Protection System (NG-IHPS) under Army Contracting Command (ACC). The NG-IHPS is a modular ballistic helmet that is utilized by the small community of close combat forces.

The domestic ballistic helmet industry is limited, with only a small number of manufacturers who possess the necessary technical expertise and production capacity to produce the ACH GEN II. competition will be limited to ArmorSource Both ArmorSource and have the capability and expertise to manufacture the ACH GEN II based on their experience with similar ballistic helmets. ArmorSource currently manufactures the Advanced Combat Vehicle Crewman Helmet (ACVC-H) under a DLA contract.

The ACVC-H and the NG-IHPS helmets share similar design features and ballistic protection levels with the ACH GEN II. Like the ACH GEN II, these helmets are designed to provide lightweight ballistic protection for soldiers, while maintaining compatibility with accessories such as the night vision devices. In addition, all testing for these helmets is required to be in accordance with DOT&E protocol. ArmorSource and provided DLA with quantities they can produce and deliver under this effort. DLA plans to make up to two awards under this industrial mobilization effort. Therefore, it is in the Government's best interest to use the authority of FAR 6.302-3 because it is necessary to maintain properly balanced sources of supply for meeting the requirements of this critical safety item's acquisition program in the interest of industrial mobilization.

6. The proposed contract action will be synopsized in the System for Award Management (SAM.Gov) fifteen (15) days prior to the issuance of the solicitation. In addition, this justification, however, will be made available for public inspection, after award, in accordance with FAR 6.305.

7. As the Contracting Officer, I hereby determine that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable based on price analysis techniques in FAR 15.40401, including adequate competition and comparison to previous prices paid.

8. DLA Troop Support conducted market research with ArmorSource in September 2025. Both firms responded that they would be willing and able to produce the ACH GEN II.

9. There are no other facts supporting the use of the (c)(3) authority.

10. AmorSource have expressed interest in this acquisition.

11. ArmorSource have production lines with a skilled workforce to manufacture the ACH GEN II. The ACH GEN II are procured through competitive procedures in normal situations. The solicitation for the follow-on procurement will be issued in March 2026 utilizing full and open competition procedures and the first portion is expected to be awarded in

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

MICHELLE FALKOWSKI
Contracting Officer

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.

[redacted]

I have reviewed and hereby approve this justification.

William J Kenny 1/12/20

WILLIAM J. KENNY
Executive Director
DLA Troop Support Contracting
and Acquisition Management

[redacted]