**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Justification for Single Source Awards IAW RFO 12.102**
**For**
**Over Micro-Purchase Threshold but Not Exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold**

**Acquisition Plan Action ID: 36C261-27-AP-0166**
**JOFOC Tracking ID: FY26 - NCO 21 - 1133**

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Regional Procurement Office (RPO) West, Network Contracting Office 21 (NCO 21), in support of Veterans Integrated Service Network 21 (VISN 21), Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS), 10535 Hospital Way, Mather, CA 95655-4200.

   Purchase Request Number: [redacted]

2. **Brief Description of Supplies/ Services required and the intended use/Estimated Amount:**

   This will be a Firm-Fixed-Price Purchase Order with a Base plus Four (4) Option Years for the procurement of the Abbott AlinIQ Inventory Management System (IMS).

   Abbott AlinIQ IMS is a real-time solution that automates manual inventory processes within the laboratory, which includes but is not limited to receiving, consuming, tracking, and completing inventory checks. The solution utilizes RFID technology, in order to enhance efficiencies with handheld devices that can receive and scan high dollar items, without any line of sight needed. AlinIQ IMS is flexible and can be used for any Abbott or 3rd party item, using RFID or barcode labels. The solution is scalable and can be deployed at multiple sites with visibility into each one. AlinIQ IMS also offers a dashboard to view key metrics and pull reports, necessary to make informed decisions in real-time. Items included with the IMS software package consist of RFID Handhelds, RFID Printer, Consumption pads, IMS Software, IMS training, and ongoing IMS Support

   Total Estimated Value: [redacted]

   Base: 10/01/2026 - 09/30/2027 [redacted]
   Option Year 1: 10/01/2027 - 09/30/2028
   Option Year 2: 10/01/2028 - 09/30/2029
   Option Year 3: 10/01/2029 - 09/30/2030
   Option Year 4: 10/01/2030 - 09/30/2031

3. **Unique characteristics that limit availability to only one source, with the reason no other supplies or services can be used:**

   VA Northern California Health Care System's Pathology and Laboratory Service would like to incorporate the Abbott AlinIQ Inventory Management System (IMS) into their operations. AlinIQ IMS is an automated Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) Inventory Management Solution and Software System built specifically for medical and research laboratories. It is an open platform system that is compatible with both Abbott Instruments and outside vendors, products, and supplies that are RFID tagged. AlinIQ IMS has the capability to host multiple different sites and locations, to include those that are geographically separated. This allows for the seamless tracking of inventory

between different facilities and locations in real-time, which is important for VANCHCS as they are spread across four different locations to include Mather, Martinez, Redding, and Stockton California.

AlinIQ IMS is a truly automated system that requires no direct line of site for receiving, tracking, and scanning items as opposed to the current inventory management process at VANCHCS, which is accomplished manually by VA employees. With AlinIQ IMS, the time VANCHCS employees spend receiving items, tracking inventory, and placing normal and rush orders due to expired and/or exhausted supplies will be greatly reduced. In addition to this, AlinIQ IMS offers the ability to quarantine notifications and offer best-pick reagent options in order to maximize inventories and utilize materials that are closer to expiration first. This ensures consistently high-quality inventory, reduced waste, and real cost savings within VANCHCS laboratories by freeing up valuable VA employee time for other tasks.

Given the market research and responses from Abbott Laboratory representatives, the Abbott AlinIQ IMS product line is considered to be specialized, unique to the market, and proprietary to Abbott Laboratories Inc. (NH3LDK8CFAK7), the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). According to Abbott Laboratories these items are exclusively available from Abbott with no authorized resellers and/or distributors allowed. Additionally, no other products of this type, from outside vendors are authorized for use on Abbott Laboratory Instruments.

VA Northern California Health Care System's Pathology and Laboratory Service currently has Chemistry, Immunoassay, and Automation instruments from Abbott Laboratories installed and in use at their Mather, Martinez, Redding, and Stockton California locations under contract [redacted]; which is currently effective until 09/30/2029. It does not make business sense to attempt to solicit and award a contract to a different Inventory Management System vendor given the market research and existing structure / set-up of VANCHCS Laboratories. In fact, doing so would potentially pose warranty and contractual issues for the instruments currently installed under the existing contract. A sole source award to the OEM, Abbott Laboratories, Inc. (NH3LDK8CFAK7), therefore, represents both the best value and most efficient course of action for the government at this time.

**4. Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:**

VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Service requires an automated Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID)-based inventory management system to improve traceability, reduce expired reagent waste, and enhance operational efficiency. Manual barcode-based tracking, which the VANCHCS Laboratory presently utilizes, is labor-intensive and susceptible to error. The Abbott AlinIQ IMS system integrates serialized RFID tracking directly with Abbott reagent distribution thus automating the tracking process.

The Nonmanufacturing Rule does not apply.

The Limitations on Subcontracting do not apply.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates medical devices sold in the United States to assure their safety and effectiveness. Items purchased for use at the Department of Veterans Affairs must be FDA approved.

The AlinIQ IMS System complies with GS1 serialization standards, FDA labeling requirements where applicable, and commercial digital health support models. The Annual maintenance subscription is also consistent with standard industry practices for enterprise software solutions.

Used the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) to identify certified capable SDVOSBs and VOSBs.

Conducted a search of SBA's DSBS utilizing NAICS 334516 – Analytical Laboratory Instrument Manufacturing and filters for SDVOSB/VOSB vendors only, which resulted in the identification of 2 SDVOSB/VOSB vendors potentially capable of meeting the Government's need.

Conducted a search of suggested vendor, Abbott Laboratories, Inc. (NH3LDK8CFAK7); Abbott Laboratories, Inc. is a large business.

A search of the VA National Acquisition Center (NAC) was conducted utilizing keyword(s) "AlinIQ IMS" (no results returned) and Part Numbers "02P53-68" (no results returned), "02P53-59" (no results returned), and "01DN9-01" (no results returned).

A search of the VA Supply Chain Master Catalog (SCMC) was conducted utilizing keyword(s) "AlinIQ IMS" (2 results 36C25025A0013 & 36C26326A0006, available to Station(s) [redacted]) and Part Numbers "02P53-68" (no results returned), "02P53-59" (no results returned), and "01DN9-01" (no results returned).

[redacted] are Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA). Both contracts were searched in the System for Award Management (SAM) which revealed that both BPAs are held under the parent contract - 36F79719D0024, which is a VA FSS Contract with Abbott Laboratories, Inc. A review and search of contract 36F79719D0024's Terms and Conditions (Price List) did not return any results for Part Numbers "02P53-68", "02P53-59", & "01DN9-01"; however, the base Part Number "02P53" was listed under the description for AlinIQ IMS with a full part number of "02P53-28".

A search of General Services Administration (GSA) Advantage was conducted utilizing keyword(s) "AlinIQ IMS" (no results returned) and Part Numbers "02P53-68" (no results returned), "02P53-59" (no results returned), and "01DN9-01" (no results returned).

A search of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) was conducted utilizing keyword(s) "AlinIQ IMS" (no results returned) and Part Numbers "02P53-68" (no results returned), "02P53-59" (no results returned), and "01DN9-01" (no results returned).

A search of USASpending.gov was conducted utilizing keyword(s) "AlinIQ IMS" (no results returned) and Part Numbers "02P53-68" (no results returned), "02P53-59" (no results returned), and "01DN9-01" (no results returned).

A search of the System for Award Management (SAM) was conducted utilizing keyword(s) "AlinIQ IMS" (no results returned) and Part Numbers "02P53-68" (no results returned), "02P53-59" (no results returned), and "01DN9-01" (no results returned).

A Bing.com internet search for "Abbott Laboratories Inc and AlinIQ and [redacted]" resulted in about 21 results and the link for the Core Laboratory at Abbott. Within the Core Laboratory website, the Contact Us form fields to request additional information were filled out on 04/06/2026. An automated email was returned in response stating, "Thank you for your inquiry to Abbott. This is an automated note to provide you with the case number: [redacted], and to let you know that our Customer Service goal is to reply within two business days (based on U.S. Central time). We appreciate your interest in Abbott."

A phone number (1-800-323-9100) for the North America office was then located within the Core Laboratory at Abbott Website. An email [redacted], Sales Representative was obtained after contacting the company by phone and speaking with a representative by the name of [redacted] was emailed on 04/06/2026 with several questions in need of clarification. [redacted] responded same day, with a message that, "[redacted] (on cc) will respond with the information requested below later today.". As promised, [redacted] responded later that same day with the following information –

1. Please provide the correct Abbott Laboratories, Inc. UEI number.
    a. Abbott SAM UEI: NH3LDK8CFAK7
2. Please state where these items are manufactured / country of origin.
    a. 6 of the 9 are manufactured in trade compliant countries. The other 3 are China, Malasia and the Philippines. [This is further clarified per part number on the updated quotation]
3. Please provide the names and contact information for any Authorized Distributors of these products, if applicable.
    a. Not Applicable; Abbott only.
4. Please advise if any other products (outside of Abbott products) of this type are authorized for use on Abbott Laboratory Instruments.
    a. Not Applicable; Abbott only.
5. Please advise if these products and services are available for purchase under any existing government-wide contracts (FSS, GSA, VA NAC, NASA SEWP, etc.).
a. If so, please provide the contract number(s).
    i. FSS 36F797-19-D0024

Further email correspondence with Abbott Laboratory Representatives, [redacted], between 04/06/2026 – 04/13/2026 revealed that AlinIQ Digital Tools with part numbers 02P53-28, 02P53-23, 02S06-01, & 04S06-01 are listed on the vendor's current FSS Contract (36F79719D0024). The specific part numbers for this procurement (02P53-59, 02P53-68, 05P50-01, & 01DN9-01) however, are not.

According to [redacted] the reason for the differences in part numbers can be attributed to a naturally evolving product line, [redacted]

The verify this information and inquire as to whether the specific part numbers for this procurement are considered to be a part of the existing FSS Contract or are to be added in the near future, [redacted], was contacted via email on 04/16/2026, & 04/23/2026 and via Microsoft Teams on 05/06/2026. Unfortunately, there was no response to any of these communication attempts. As the specific part numbers needed are not currently listed on the FSS contract, they will be considered Open Market Items for this procurement.

5. **Contracting Officer's Certification:** *Purchase is approved in accordance with RFO 12.102. I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

[redacted]