DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY
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[redacted]

13 May 2026

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION
TAK [redacted]

1. Nature and/or Description of Action

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) contracting activity proposes to procure, without using full and open competition, technical support and services for the [redacted]

2. Description of the Supplies/Services Required

DTRA [redacted] requires highly specialized services for the maintenance, sustainment, and integration of its [redacted] within the Department of War (DoW) TAK ecosystem for [redacted] operations. This core requirement involves sustained software testing, analysis and engineering to ensure compatibility between software updates made to the TAK platform by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM), Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, INC, (Draper), and [redacted] also developed by Draper. This analysis and testing ensures that the [redacted] is integrated appropriately into a [redacted] environment, providing real-time situational awareness for [redacted] The required services include:

- Software Maintenance and Integration: Support for multiple TAK platforms including Android TAK (ATAK), WebTAK, and the [redacted] This includes bug fixes, user interface (UI) modifications, regression testing, and integration of software and features to align with mission requirements and the TAK [redacted].
- Server Administration and Support: System administration, maintenance, modernization, and troubleshooting for both Cloud and Edge [redacted] including support for obtaining [redacted]
- Interoperability and Testing: Interoperability testing for all [redacted] and [redacted], and the expansion of automated testing capabilities to ensure software stability and reliability.

These services are essential to maintain the continuity of the developmental [redacted] work originally initiated with Draper by the DTRA [redacted] in [redacted] via direct contract award. Although the [redacted] has now entered the maintenance phase, the specialized nature of the [redacted] and the in-depth technical knowledge required to manage the existing codebase create a significant barrier to entry. Consequently, the previously anticipated competitive environment has not materialized. Market research indicates that there are prohibitive costs, steep learning curves, and other timeliness barriers associated with transition of this requirement to another vendor. Additionally, and in light of these factors, Government attempts to broaden the competitive field for this requirement would be sunk costs into a single vendor resulting in little to no expansion to the pool of competitive vendors over time.

a. Period of Performance: Base year and four one-year options
b. Total cost of acquisition for base plus four option years: [redacted]

3. Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for this non-competitive action is:

[redacted]

[redacted]

FAR Part 6.103-1(c)(2) Class Deviation 2026-O0017 states that, "When awarding a follow-on contract for the continued development or production of a major system or highly specialized equipment and, for DoW, NASA, and the Coast Guard, for the continued provision of highly special requirements, would result in (i) Substantial duplication of cost to the Government that is not expected to be recovered through competition; or (ii) Unacceptable delays in fulfilling the agency's requirements."

4. Applicability of Authority

Awarding this contract to any source other than the OEM, Draper, would introduce critical gaps in sustainment that directly impact [redacted] and [redacted] As the original developer of both the TAK platform and [redacted] Draper possesses over a decade of unique and comprehensive experience with the [redacted] The [redacted] is the most complex accessory within the TAK [redacted], comprising over [redacted]

A new vendor lacking Draper's institutional knowledge would require an estimated six months, and a dedicated team of four engineers, to develop a sufficient understanding of the code to begin sustainment activities. Given that the [redacted] a six-month learning curve would inevitably cause critical delays in diagnosing system issues and deploying vital [redacted]. These delays would jeopardize the [redacted]

Financially, implications of onboarding an alternative vendor are prohibitive, as the Government would face a substantial, unrecoverable duplication of cost to pay a new vendor to replicate the technical baseline and expertise already possessed by Draper. Based on subject matter expertise, the Government calculates the transition and familiarization [redacted] This figure represents [redacted] of the total estimated [redacted]. This transition cost is highly aligned with [redacted]

Technical Comparison and Industry Validation

Evaluation Metric	TAK CBRN Estimate	Industry Standard (~1M LOC)	Gemini Enterprise Assessment
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

technical baseline, maturity, and institutional knowledge. Expending an additional [redacted] For the Government to break even on awarding to a non-incumbent, the competing vendor would need to offer their sustainment services at a [redacted] iven the highly specialized skills and security clearances required for [redacted] engineers operating on the TAK [redacted], achieving such a labor rate reduction commercially is unviable.

[redacted]

Considering the combined impact of unacceptable mission delays, the [redacted] in duplicated costs, and the specialized nature of the [redacted] TAK [redacted], Draper is the only source capable of providing these services without compromising [redacted]. Competition would not yield sufficient savings to offset the massive initial investment required for a new vendor to assume sustainment responsibilities.

5. Effort to Solicit Potential Sources

To foster a competitive bidding environment, DTRA posted a Request for Information (RFI) on Sam.gov from February 20, 2026, to March 6, 2026 (HDTRA126CETAK). This notification was posted to determine if, in addition to Draper (the incumbent), there were any other qualified providers capable of performing these services. The following companies submitted a timely response: [redacted]

6. Fair and Reasonable Costs

The anticipated cost/price of this contract action to the Government will be determined to be fair and reasonable based on a detailed price and cost analysis. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

7. Market Research

Based on the market research conducted, it has been determined that only Draper, the original software developer, can meet the Government's requirements in a timely and cost-effective manner. The following market research techniques utilized: RFI posted on Sam.gov, knowledge of the TAK community, market research and capability assessment of interested parties.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

8. Other Facts

[redacted]. A new vendor would need to learn the processes of the Product Center which could delay the accreditation and [redacted]

9. Interested Sources

DTRA issued a Sources Sought RFI on Sam.gov from February 20, 2026, to March 6, 2026. This process identified two interested sources: [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

10. Subsequent Actions

[redacted] will proactively monitor the status of the [redacted], [redacted] TAK [redacted] The explicit intent is to identify and capitalize on any commercial changes that would permit a pivot to a full and open competition, which the Government will readily reassess as the landscape evolves.

[redacted].

Technical Certification

I certify that the data and information forming the basis for this justification are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[redacted]

Contracting Officer Certification

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

CLARK.CHRISTINA.[redacted]

[redacted]

Contracting Officer

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]