DETERMINATION & FINDINGS

Authority to Solicit from a Single Source (at or below the SAT)

1. Agency and Contracting Activity: AFRL/RMZB

2. Nature and/or Description of the Action: [redacted]

USAFSAM/OEA requires two (2) Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) units. This will give the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory (IHL) the capability to analyze concentrations in Air Force industrial hygiene samples as required by DAFMAN 48-146.

3. Citation to the Appropriate Regulation:
(Contracting Officer Instruction: Select the applicable authority for this acquisition)

- ○ **RFO 8.401 and GSAR 538.7104-3(a) (FSS Orders):** The circumstances of the acquisition deem only one source reasonably capable of providing the products, services, or solutions.
- ○ **RFO 11.204(a)(2)(ii) (Brand Name):** The particular brand name, product, or feature is essential to the Government's requirements, and market research indicates other companies' similar products, or products lacking the particular feature, do not meet the agency's needs or cannot be modified to meet the agency's minimum needs,.
- ◉ **RFO 12.102(a) (Commercial Products and Services):** Only one source is available,.
- ○ **RFO 13.101(b) (Noncommercial Products and Services):** Only one source is reasonably available (e.g., urgency, exclusive licensing agreements, brand-name, or industrial mobilization),.

4. Findings:

In accordance with RFO Part 10, USAFSAM/OEA conducted initial market research to collect product specifications through detailed internet searches, consultations with industry experts, outreach to potential vendors capable of meeting the established criteria, and a review of commercially available analytical instruments. This research identified a mandatory requirement for an Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) that operates using proprietary MassHunter software to ensure data continuity and compatibility with existing validated laboratory methods. Agilent Technologies, Inc. is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and sole developer of the required MassHunter software. Market research confirms that while Agilent Technologies, Inc. can provide the majority of the required items through its GSA Federal Supply Schedule, no other GSA vendor can meet the Government's critical software and data integration requirements. Therefore, Agilent is the only responsible source capable of fulfilling this requirement. Additionally, this requirement is not available through AbilityOne. Given that Agilent Technologies, Inc. is the sole authorized source to fulfill this requirement, minimal additional market research was conducted. Agilent Technologies, Inc. was contacted directly and provided a formal quote.

There is not a reasonable expectation two responsible small businesses could provide competitive quotations in terms of market price, quality, and delivery, which is the reason for proceeding as a sole source acquisition. Therefore, IAW RFO 19.104-1(a), the acquisition strategy is to not set aside this action for small business. The acquisition strategy recommendation is to pursue a firm fixed-price purchase order under RFO Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial Products and Commercial Services. IAW RFO 12.102(a) this purchase will proceed as single source to Agilent Technologies, Inc. If future, similar requirements are presented, the Requiring Activity and Contracting Office will continue to conduct market research to see if any new entrants into the marketplace and could fulfill the Government's requirement.

5. Determination: Based on the findings above, the proposed sole source or brand name action is justified under the applicable regulation.

6. Signatory Authority: *(Contracting Officer Instruction: In accordance with DAF Approval Authorities Matrix PM 26-C-11 Matrix Item 51 for RFO 13.101(b) actions and GSAR 538.7104-3(a) for FSS orders, the Contracting Officer is the approval authority for these determinations).*

[redacted]

Chris M. Stokes
Contracting Officer
AFRL/RMZB
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Jul 31, 2026