Single Source Justification (Simplified Acquisition)

Section A: General Contract Information

Is this a Bridge Action as defined in the AF Bridge Action Reduction Plan? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Contracting Activity: 90 Contract Squadron

Project/Program Name: Ascent AeroSystems Spirit sUAS

Purchase Request / Local ID Number: [redacted]

Estimated Contract Cost (including Options): [redacted]

Section B: Description of the Supplies/Services Required

This requirement is for the acquisition of a brand-name commercial Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS), the Ascent Aerosystems Spirit Base Kit. The scope of work is for a complete, turn-key system to provide real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) training for the 90th Ground Combat Training Squadron (GCTS). As a Formal Training Unit (FTU) for the Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) northern tier, the 90 GCTS requires platforms that support comprehensive operator training for deployments to dispersed, extreme-weather missile field environments.

The acquisition includes:

- **Two (2) Spirit Base Kits**: Each kit includes the core aircraft, GPS module, two sets of blades, two flight batteries, a charger, and a protective Pelican case.
- **Two (2) Gremsy VIO F1 Payload Modules:** This payload is an essential, integrated component that provides a 4K electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) camera, a radiometric thermal imager, and a laser rangefinder required to execute the ISR and target identification portions of the training curriculum.

This is a commercial product as defined in FAR 2.101, and the acquisition will be conducted on a Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP) basis.

Section C: Justification for Soliciting from a Single Source or Brand Name

This procurement must be restricted to the Ascent Aerosystems Spirit brand because it is the only sUAS platform that possesses the unique technical qualifications required to meet the Government's minimum needs. The justification is based on the following:

1. Unique Coaxial Airframe Configuration: The 90 GCTS operates as an FTU required to produce operators competent across various airframe classes. The Ascent Spirit is the only coaxial, contra-rotating platform on the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) Blue UAS Cleared List. Conventional multi-rotor systems (quadcopters) possess fundamentally different flight characteristics, control logic, preflight workflows, and emergency procedures. The Government cannot teach a coaxial airframe curriculum on a quadcopter. This is a strict configuration requirement, not merely a performance threshold.

2. Open and Modular Payload Architecture: The 90 GCTS training curriculum requires an aircraft that students can physically build, configure, and troubleshoot. The Spirit features a Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) ready architecture, dual identical payload attach points, approximately 10 lbs of usable payload and battery capacity, and an open flight controller. This allows for third-party sensor integration, field reconfiguration, and system-level maintenance training. Alternative platforms on the Blue UAS list utilize closed, proprietary autonomy stacks that prevent student-led

payload integration and system modification.

3. Complementary Fleet Capability: The 90 GCTS currently fields conventional quadcopters (e.g., the Skydio X10D). Procuring another conventional multirotor would result in redundant capabilities while leaving the critical coaxial and open-architecture training gaps unfilled. The Spirit complements the existing fleet to provide comprehensive, multi-platform operator training.

4. Minimum Operational Environment Thresholds: To adequately prepare students for AFGSC northern-tier conditions (e.g., Minot AFB, Malmstrom AFB), all training aircraft must withstand sustained winds of 40+ mph and severe moisture (IP55 or higher). While multiple platforms meet these environmental gates, the Ascent Spirit is the only system that satisfies these necessary weather thresholds while simultaneously providing the required coaxial configuration and open architecture.

Section D: Efforts to Obtain Competition

Market research was conducted in accordance with FAR Part 10. This research included a thorough review of the DIU Blue UAS Cleared List, an analysis of commercially available sUAS platforms on GSA Advantage, and a survey of the broader commercial drone market.

While market research identified multiple DIU-cleared sUAS platforms that meet the environmental thresholds (such as the Skydio X10D and WISPR SkyScout 2+), it concluded that none of these alternatives feature a coaxial airframe or an open/modular payload architecture. Because alternative quadcopter platforms cannot replicate the flight characteristics or hardware integration capabilities required by the FTU curriculum, no other system can meet the Government's training objectives.

Therefore, because only the Ascent Aerosystems Spirit's unique design can satisfy this mission-critical performance requirement, competition must be restricted to this specific brand name. To maximize competition among authorized providers, the solicitation will be posted as a 100% small business set-aside on SAM.gov, inviting quotes from all authorized resellers of the Spirit system.

Section E: Steps to Preclude Future Single Source or Brand Name Awards

To foster competition for future requirements, the 90 GCTS and 90 CONS will continuously monitor the commercial market and the DIU Blue UAS Cleared List for emerging coaxial, contra-rotating platforms and open-architecture sUAS systems from competing manufacturers. Additionally, the team will engage with industry and leverage innovation hubs like AFWERX and DIU to communicate the Air Force's need for diverse, MOSA-compliant, and all-weather sUAS training platforms, stimulating the industrial base to develop competing solutions that meet Formal Training Unit curriculum requirements.

Section F: Contracting Officer's Determination

I have determined, in accordance with FAR 13.106-1(b)(1), that the circumstances of this contract action deem only a single source is reasonably available.

Date	Typed Name and Rank/Grade of Contracting Officer	Signature of Contracting Officer
16-Jul-2026	Patrick C. Enriquez, GS-13, Contracting Officer	ENRIQUEZ.PATRICK.CHRISTIAN.1468122878 Digitally signed by ENRIQUEZ.PATRICK.CHRISTIAN.1468122878 Date: 2026.07.16 12:58:33 -06'00'