DETERMINATION & FINDINGS

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

1. Agency and Contracting Activity: AFRL/RMZB; WPAFB, OH 45433-5309

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

This effort is to purchase a micro load frame and training on the equipment. This item is required to apply tension and compression forces to energetic material samples for analysis by a atomic force microscope (AFM). This data is required to complete a AFRL/RABE project requirement to characterize energetic material performance in unique operational environments.

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:

AFRL/RABE conducted market research to identify companies able to supply a micro load frame able to meet the physical requirements and integrate with the Jupiter XR AFM. This research included internet searches and discussions with subject matter experts. Four companies were identified and contacted. The NanoRack-JUP was the only micro load frame able to fully integrate with the Jupiter XR AFM operated by AFRL/RABE. The NanoRack-JUP can physically fit under the AFM scanner head. The NanoRack-JUP Micro Load Frame is manufactured by the same company as the Jupiter XR AFM, Oxford Industries Asylum Research, and is the only one that fully integrates with the AFM software. Integrating the micro load frame with the AFM control increases the efficiency of analyzing the energetic material samples and reduces the chance of errors in generating the data.

There is not a reasonable expectation two responsible small businesses could provide competitive quotations in terms of market price, quality, and delivery. 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 Oxford Instruments Asylum Research, 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 Stokes
AFRL/RMZB Contracting Officer

Aug 5, 2026