United States Department of Agriculture
Decision to Restrict Competition under the Simplified Acquisition Threshold
Identification Number: REQ# 1168521 / FY26-007534

In accordance with the Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Overhaul (RFO) FAR 12.102(a), the following documents the decision to restrict competition for this acquisition.

(1) Mission Area and Contracting Activity.

Requisition Number: 1168521

Requesting Activity Agency: USDA-ARS Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (126538)

Contracting Activity: USDA-ARS Acquisition and Property Division (1232SA)

[redacted]

(3) Brief Description of Supplies or Services

The requirement is for 100 devices that can accurately measure the pH of the rumen in beef cattle and 10 devices that can accurately measure the oxidation reduction potential of the rumen in beef cattle. The rumen pH boluses require the following specifications: 130mm x 32 mm in size and weigh 180grams, have an accuracy of ±0.2pH for 90 days, and then ±0.4pH from 91 to 150 days. Data should be transmitted to the base station at least every 10 minutes. Rumen ORP boluses should have the following specs: 130mm x 32 mm in size and weigh ~ 180 grams. Oxidative reduction potential will be measured, and raw data will be available for download. This is the minimum that is acceptable as it is imperative that the boluses meet the criteria listed to be able to be utilized.

(1) Suggested Source

The suggested contractor is:

Agri iOT Limited (Moonsyst)
3 Patricks Court,
Patrick Street,
Kilkenny, IRL
UEI: UPFQZ6BYLYB6

[redacted]

(4) Justification for Restricting Competition and the Basis for that Decision.

A. Explain the unique qualifications/characteristics of the proposed contractor or product and why no other contractor or product/service can meet the Government's need.

We currently have a system installed for downloading information from rumen boluses, which is only compatible with Moonsyst boluses. Other vendor's products will require the purchase of two additional unique systems (1-2 based on the size of the barn) for data downloading from the manufacturer boluses other than Moonsyst. The Moonsyst boluses requested are the only product that is compatible with this equipment and the only product that will produce data that can be integrated with a prior study. We have used Moonsyst boluses for a prior study, and this would

[redacted]

ensure seamless data transfer and compatibility, which is crucial for maintaining operational efficiency and consistency in ongoing research projects. This project is a secondary study to one performed on yearling calves to determine whether rapid transition to high concentrate diets cause increases in liver abscesses. This study will mirror that study except that it will be conducted on younger calves. These data sets will be directly compared to determine whether there are pH profiles are indicative of liver abscess development. There are known differences between commercial vendors of pH boluses (https://academic.oup.com/jas/article/102/Supplement_3/350/7757046). These differences prevent direct comparisons and future meta-analyses from being conducted if data is not collected using the same brand of instraments. Additionally, the manufacturer of these boluses guarantees pH readings of +/- 0.2 pH for 90-150 days, has been verified for use in feedlot cattle, offers built in memory storage, and provides the raw data to the end user.

B. Describe market research conducted and the results or the reason why no market research was conducted.
Market research consisting of internet searches and a prior solicitation (ID# 12805B24Q0078) was posted on January 10, 2024 suggests that there are two additional companies that offer similar products. One is manufactured in China [redacted] and is unlikely to comply with NDAA purchasing. The other is [redacted] (also a foreign company). [redacted] products are only sold to dairy cattle facilities. We plan to use the product with feedlot cattle. A sources sought (ID# 12805B25Q0023) was posted in fiscal year 2025 with no responses received. An unrestricted solicitation (also ID# 12805B25Q0023) was then posted with three quotes received with Moonsyst being the vendor selected for award. The lowest priced quote was for the [redacted] Classic bolus through a third party vendor. The [redacted] Classic bolus does not measure rumen pH, it only measures temperature and activity; thus, it did not meet our specifications and was not suitable for use. The next quote provided to us was from Moonsyst. While not considered for the award due to the evaluatin factors the third quote was for the [redacted] units. These are manufactured in China being sold by a third party located in Baghdad. The contractor did not complete the reps and certs for this requirement, to include calling out that the item was foreign as needed in 52.225-1. The contractor's reps and certs from SAM.gov 52.212-3 does represent that they will not provide electronics from China. The contractor also has a termination for cause due to failure to deliver. Based on all of these factors this contractor would likely be ineligible for an award and can't be considered reasonable competition.

In response to an email query regarding licensing to third party vendors Moonsyst replied that the boluses are only available directly through them, they do not license their products for resale. [redacted] Thus, there is no other rumen pH bolus that is acceptable for use, and no other supplies from which this item can be recieved. It is important that the products are obtained from the same source that we have purchased them from before to keep consistency among the data collection methods.

Certifications & Approvals

(5) Technical / Requirements Personnel Certification

I certify this requirement meets the Government's minimum need and that the supporting data, which forms a basis for this justification, is complete and accurate.

[redacted]