Justification Review Document
For Sole Source - FAR Part 13.501*
(*Format follows FAR 6.303-2, but modified to reflect FAR subpart 13.5 procedures)

Program/Equipment: Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground radio frequency direction finding equipment, training, and warranty

Authority: 41 United States Code 1901 as implemented in Federal Acquisition Regulation 13.501(a)(1)(ii), sole source (including brand name) under the authority of the simplified procedures for certain commercial items.

[redacted]

Prepared by:

[redacted]

Contracting Officer:

[redacted]

Technical Representative:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Reviews

I have reviewed this justification and find it adequate to support other than full and open competition.

Legal Counsel

[redacted]

Sole Source Justification and Approval
Under FAR 13.501

1. (U) Contracting Activity: 409th CSB

2. (CUI) Description of Action: This sole source justification and approval is for a new contract to expend European Defense Initiative (EDI) funds under an Unfunded Requirement.

3. (U) Description of Supplies/Services:

a. (U) MD1007-0301-01 - Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground, quantity: 3, Unit price per kit: [redacted]

b. (U) Extended Warranty for MD1007-0301-01 - Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground, [redacted]

c. (U) MD1007-0825-01- Mastodon Systems Training, 2 Instructor 5 Day (CONUS, up to 12 students), [redacted]

4. (U) Authority Cited: 41 United States Code 1901 as implemented in Federal Acquisition Regulation 13.501(a)(1)(ii), sole source (including brand name) under the authority of the simplified procedures for certain commercial items.

5. (CUI) Reason for Authority Cited:

I. (U) Pursuant to FAR 11.105(a)(1), two conditions must be met to justify restricting consideration to an item peculiar to one manufacture. Namely, (1) "[t]he particular brand-name, product, or feature is essential to the Government's requirements;" and (2) "market research indicates other companies' similar products, or products lacking the particular feature, do not meet, or cannot be modified to meet, the agency's needs." The subject procurement satisfies both considerations.

II. [redacted] Consideration (1): The particular brand-name, product, or feature is essential to the Government's requirements. As discussed below, the Government requires a product, which can be operated inconspicuously in tactical operations. This feature, which is met by the subject brand name product, is essential to Government requirements.

(U) Other vendor products do not provide an interface for users without formal education in radio frequency analysis, do not provide GPS positioning that is transmitted via IP network connection to other sensors for positioning, and require the use of a conspicuous hand-held antenna that is not suitable for use while driving and is not tactically feasible for operations that require low-profile presence within an area. The antenna systems used by the other vendors are conspicuous, as they are approximately 3ft. x 3ft. directional, hand-held that is designed for signal direction finding by engineers that are not concerned with conducting operations within a tactical environment.

a. (U) The proposed vendor equipment provides direction finding (DF) capabilities that are required for the mission profile for which it will be used. The mission set requires the DF equipment to receive an analyzed signal in a low-communication environment, tune to the signal of interest (SOI), provide an interface to determine direction and location of the SOI, and remain locked on the SOI under walking, driving conditions. The requirement also stipulates the DF equipment should not require a heavy understanding of radio frequency (RF) theory and knowledge to operate as the users of the equipment will not be technically trained due to the reduced personnel requirements for the use of the equipment.

b. (U) The Government requires the capability to allow non-technical users to focus on a specific radio frequency location inconspicuously as a single user during a mission. The Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground sensor is also suitable for tactical mission profiles where operations security is key to the preservation and mission security. The DF equipment being procured (Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground) unique features enable the unit to be used in multiple settings (i.e., rucksack, vehicle mounted) while allowing inconspicuous tactical operations. In addition, the Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground can obtain and retain a SOI under multiple settings.

III. [redacted] Consideration (2): Market research indicates other companies' similar products, or products lacking the particular feature, do not meet, or cannot be modified to meet, the agency's needs.

c. [redacted] As indicated in the Market Research below, other companies produce similar products that offer DF capabilities. However, the alternatives require conspicuous 3ft. x 3ft.antennas which precludes inconspicuous operation in a tactical environments. Moreover, other alternatives use a hand-held antennas that are not suitable for maintaining a lock on the SOI while on the move. The directional antennas on other equipment options must constantly be manipulated to maintain signal lock to the SOI. Most importantly, these alternatives cannot be modified to meet the agency needs without compromising the system' capabilities. Specifically, the alternatives are designed to be used in a controlled setting (non-tactical / laboratory). Any reduction in the unit size and antenna would not be considered a modification, but an entire remanufacturing of the equipment. The entire product would have to be redesigned and tested, as simply reducing the size of an antenna would result in capability degradation of a DF product. On the contrary, the equipment being procured (Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground) is already built in a manner where it can be used inconspicuously as it is 22"H x 3.5"D and, does not require the antenna to be held, just fixed in place until the SOI is obtained which is suitable for use by a single user as the fixed capability allows for hands free usage while on the move, if necessary.

d. [redacted] The Government also requires the DF equipment to meet standards for use in a tactical environment. The Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground equipment is ruggedized and designed for use by DoD military personnel and is currently used in tactical elements throughout the Army and Special Operations Forces (SOF) units. Alternate products that provide DF capabilities are not ruggedized as they are normally used by engineers in the civilian sector.

6. (U) Efforts to Obtain Competition: As no alternate products exist which meet, or can be modified to meet, the Agency's needs and Mastodon Design LLC (a CACI company) is the only distributor for the product being procured as supported by the manufacturer statement found during Market Research. The requirement must be solicited on a Sole Source basis. Pursuant to FAR 13.501(a)(iv), this justification will be made publicly available with the solicitation. The notices required by FAR 5.2 will be published.

7. (U) Actions to Increase Competition: At the time of this proposal, there are vendors that provide similar DF equipment; however, as outlined above, said systems lack the ability to retain a signal lock while on the move or present bulky antennas that prevent inconspicuous operation. USAREUR- AF G2 will continue to monitor the marketplace to determine whether alternate products can meet, or can be modified to meet, future requirements. There are no known other distributors for this equipment.

8. (U) Market Research:

a. (U) Rhode and Schwarz R&S PR200 Portable monitoring receiver provides similar direction-finding capabilities, but the system relies on a large, hand-held direction-finding antenna that is not suitable for operations security. As a result, any change in the size and type of antenna will reduce system capabilities.

b. (U) Narda IDA 2 provides similar direction-finding capabilities as the R&S PR200, but the system relies on a large, hand-held direction-finding antenna that is not suitable for operations security. Similar to the preceding alternate product, reduction in the antenna size will reduce system capabilities. Further, neither option is ruggedized which has to be taken into account given the mission.

c. (U) Other commercial equipment uses a hand-held antenna that is not suitable for maintaining a lock on the SOI while used in a vehicle. The directional antenna must constantly be manipulated to maintain signal lock to the SOI. Alternate products are primarily design for laboratory use, are conspicuous in design, and require extensive knowledge of RF theory. The Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground does not require the antenna to be held, just fixed in place such as inside a rucksack or inside a vehicle so the operator can utilize the equipment while remaining inconspicuous until the SOI is obtained. The user will not have to manipulate the antenna to maintain a fix to the SOI. Additionally, the other products do not integrate with multiple sensors either through software or hardware, do not provide GPS localization of the Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground users, and are not usable by personnel without extensive training on RF theory. Market research revealed that no other product is designed to operate in a manner consistent with the Agency's requirement for inconspicuous operation. Market research further revealed that, due to the design of the alternate products, it is not possible to modify them to meet the Agency's requirements.

9. (U) Interested Sources: Mastodon Design LLC
55 Science Parkway
Rochester, NY 14620

10. (U) Other Facts:

a. (U) The Mastodon Designs, LLC Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground is already used by US EW personnel. Obtaining different equipment would increase the time to retrain EW personnel. The Mastodon Designs, LLC Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground are also compatible with the Charon/Systemware CTL hardware and software with no additional adjustments, software, or hardware modifications. Mastodon Designs, LLC is the sole manufacturer for the brand name being procured to include the DF antenna systems, firmware and software.

b. (U) Other similar equipment is designed for engineering and commercial surveys. As such, the equipment is not capable of being interlinked. The requirement does stipulate that each DF system is interlinked to provide situational awareness of each system location and the threat SOI. Additionally, similar equipment is not ruggedized for mil-spec standards or has a low-profile signature to minimalize the visibility of the equipment during operational use.

c. (U) Other commercial equipment uses a hand-held antenna that is not suitable for maintaining a lock on the SOI while used in a vehicle. The directional antenna must constantly be manipulated to maintain signal lock to the SOI. The Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground does not require the antenna to be held, just fixed in place until the SOI is obtained. The user will not have to manipulate the antenna to maintain a fix to the SOI.

d. (U) Mastodon Design LLC is the sole manufacturer/provider of the Mastodon Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground and associated firmware. Therefore, procuring directly from Mastodon Design LLC is in the best interest of the government.

11. Technical Certification: Include the following statement:

I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[redacted]

12. Requirements Certification:
I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[redacted]

13. Fair and Reasonable Cost Determination:
I hereby determine that the anticipated cost to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable by analysis of the independent cost estimate and vendor provided price listing. Certified cost or pricing data is not required per FAR 15.403- 1(b)(3).

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

Approval

Based on the foregoing justification, I hereby approve the procurement of Kit, Beast+ Standard Ground equipment/[redacted] on an other than full and open competition basis pursuant to the authority of 41 U.S.C. 1901 as implemented by FAR 13.501, subject to availability of funds, and provided that the services and property herein described have otherwise been authorized for acquisition.

[redacted]