

## LIMITED SOURCES JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Office of Acquisition Operations  
Technology Acquisition Center  
23 Christopher Way  
Eatontown, NJ 07724
  
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a sole source award of a firm-fixed price task order to be issued under General Services Administration (GSA) Information Technology (IT) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) 70 contract number GS-35F-0464L to Dynology Corporation (Dynology), located at 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1525, Vienna, Virginia, 22182.
  
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is to provide VA's Office of Information and Technology, Service Delivery and Engineering, Enterprise Operations, in support of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA), with term user license and maintenance renewal of existing brand name Dynology Congressional and Legislative Affairs Knowledge Management System (CLAKMS) software. CLAKMS software plans, captures, coordinates, records, and reports engagements and interactions that occur between VA leadership and Congressional members and staff. CLAKMS is a web-enabled relational database application that improves the effectiveness of legislative interactions, including congressional taskers, correspondence, testimony, and delegations visits. The software also provides for up-to-date congressional member and staff contact information; tracking of congressional activities and voting records; tracking of progress of action items and bills; and the capability to store, catalog, and archive documents on VA servers. The required renewal will provide for software maintenance, application patches, enhancements, and security resolutions of existing CLAKMS software developed and provided by Dynology. Required help desk services shall provide for support by telephone and email Monday through Friday. The total estimated price of the proposed action is **REDACTED**, inclusive of a 12 month base period and four 12 month option periods.
  
4. Authority: This acquisition is being conducted under the authority of the Multiple-Award Schedule Program. The specific authority providing for a limited source award is Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 8.405-6(a)(1)(i)(B), "Only one source is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services are unique or highly specialized."
  
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: This action is for the procurement of a renewal of CLAKMS software user licenses, software maintenance, and help desk services presently in use by OCLA. CLAKMS was initially customized, installed, and configured by Dynology for OCLA in 2011.

## CLAKMS Software and Maintenance Renewal

Customization was procured through the previous contract; however, the software application is Dynology's commercial offering and intellectual property rights remain with Dynology. In addition to the functions stated above, this software system provides for business intelligence reporting tools, automated email notifications, and the ability to receive and report Really Simple Syndication feeds. This software system's calendar functionality allows VA to capture, synchronize, and strategically manage major internal and external Congressional and public affairs and strategic communication events. The Synchronization Matrix Calendar (Sync Matrix) module of this software system allows for queries of all scheduled events (past, present and future), so that one authoritative source of event data is maintained and shared by all end-users, eliminating the need for VA end users to perform double entry and manual synchronization of event data. In addition, the Sync Matrix module provides for the ability of VA end users to create, read, update and delete external events that impact VA planning, conferences, fixed calendar events, and events that require senior VA leadership visibility and participation. Since CLAKMS has been developed by Dynology using its proprietary software code, only the continued use of Dynology's CLAKMS software application will ensure VA's capabilities to plan, capture, coordinate, record, and report engagements and interactions that occur between VA leadership and Congress. No other source offers a product that provides this full list of required functionality. The other products in the market, as further detailed in section eight of this justification, are either hosted on a non-VA server, which would require VA sensitive information to be stored on a non-Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) approved software product, or does not include the required data management system.

As previously stated continued software maintenance is required. Based on CLAKMS being a proprietary application owned by Dynology, no other source can provide for the renewal of the existing CLAKMS software user licenses and the required software maintenance, application patches, enhancements, security resolutions, and help desk services. Failure to renew the CLAKMS software user licenses and software maintenance will degrade the ability of VA's senior leaders to have visibility into legislative interactions, including congressional taskers, correspondence, testimony, delegations visits, and the aforementioned technical capabilities stated above. Dynology does not have affiliation or agreements in place with any authorized resellers for the subject software user licenses and associated services; therefore, Dynology is the only responsible source that can satisfy the Government's requirements.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 8.405-6(a)(2), the award notice for this action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website and this justification will be made publicly available

## CLAKMS Software and Maintenance Renewal

within 14 days after task order award. In accordance with FAR 8.405-6(b)(3) the justification will also be posted with the request for quotation to GSA e-Buy.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the Government's technical experts will continue to perform market research to determine if there are emerging products available that will enable future requirements to be competed.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by the Government's technical experts from June 2015 through November 2015 by reviewing Congressional Quarterly's (CQ) Knowlegis and Bloomberg Government congressional software programs. Based on reviews of these companies' products and services offered, the Government's technical experts determined that none of these products could meet the requirements discussed in section five of this justification, specifically the ability to execute queries of all scheduled events or the ability for end users to create, read, update and delete external events. Additionally, CQ's Knowlegis requires any data to be stored on CQ servers and not on VA servers. Since sensitive information such as senior VA leadership appointments is being stored, any such solution would require FedRAMP compliance, which Knowlegis currently does not meet. Furthermore, Bloomberg Government is an informational news service and does not provide a data management system. In addition, neither of these two product offerings provide for VA end user data updates that occur in a real-time environment, provide for VA end user input in identifying additional required functions, provide for online and video-based assistance, and have CLAKMS VA calendar functionality capabilities. After a review of the marketplace, no other comparable product was found; therefore the market research determined that only Dynology's CLAKMS software can meet VA's technical requirements for this effort.

Additional market research was conducted in December 2015 to ascertain the ability of any other source other than Dynology that could provide the aforementioned CLAKMS software user license renewals, software maintenance, application patches, enhancements, security resolutions, and help desk services. On December 7, 2015 a Request for Information (RFI) was posted on FBO to determine whether there were any authorized resellers that could provide the required CLAKMS software user licenses and software maintenance. On December 11, 2015 the RFI closed and five companies responded. Three of the five respondents, Cabin John Consulting Corporation; True Information Assurance, LLC; and BANC3, Inc. submitted corporate capabilities pages, but did not provide details on a current product offering or the ability to provide CLAKMS licenses and maintenance to meet the Government's requirements. NebuLogic Technologies, in collaboration with two other companies, submitted a corporate capability statement stating that it was capable of developing a new software solution with similar functionality. The costs and risks associated with

## CLAKMS Software and Maintenance Renewal

the development, testing, and implementation of a new solution is not a viable option compared to renewal of the existing CLAKMS software. Dynology, one of the five respondents, provided documentation stating that there are no vendors that can provide the CLAKMS software user licenses, software maintenance, application patches, enhancements, security resolutions, and help desk services as the software user licenses, associated maintenance, and help desk services are proprietary to Dynology and are not made available through any authorized resellers. Based on this market research, Dynology is the only responsible source that can provide the requisite CLAKMS software maintenance and help desk services.

9. Other Facts: None.