Date: January 14, 2016

To: Brian Stevenson

Cc: Elizabeth Wollin

From: Pro-SphereTek BCDS Project Team

A delay was experienced in delivering critical data to the Pro-SphereTek BCDS project team. The government’s explanation for this delay is provided as follows:

The project, artifacts and deliverables have been delayed because of a delay in obtaining the data which is the subject of the BCDS analysis. The receipt of the data was delayed because of a protracted process in developing the Memorandum of Understanding (data use agreement). Initially we were told that a prior agreement negotiated by VACI and PA&I would be able to be used for BCDS with slight modifications.

Subsequently the work on the agreement was transitions from Pat McFadden to Karen Toland with whom we had to start over developing the agreement because she required a change in the format and content required. In addition, Karen experienced a personal situation which caused a delay in getting the document reviewed. Finally, the signing of the MOU agreement by Mark Seastrom, head of PA&I was further impacted when Mark went on a two-week vacation and did not was designate anyone to sign in his absence.

The data was obtained and successfully loaded on 12/18/2015. This data requires further massaging in order to be usable which the team is conducting now. The delay in receiving the data has impacted the ability of the team to develop the models and impacts the following contract provisions:

0002AA Software Design Document (IAW PWS, paragraph 5.3)

0002AB Requirements Tractability Matrix

0003 Develop BCDS Predictive Models (IAW PWS, paragraph 5.2 & 5.4)

0003AA Prediction of the disabilities of the Ear (IAW PWS, paragraph 5.4)

003AB Prediction of the disabilities of the Knee (IAW PWS, paragraph 5.4)

In addition, money was explicitly provided to Compensation Services in part to bring MITRE on to support the BCDS Team (Prosphere/PwC/Sparc) in implementing the models that they described in a series of white papers. Because of the Congressional budget delays due to the continuing resolution and internal VA delays getting the money allocated, that contract has yet to be written.

After thorough evaluation, the Pro-SphereTek BCDS team believes this delay can be absorbed across the overall project schedule during the two-year period. However, the delivery dates for specific deliverables will be delayed.

The original contract required delivery of 2 predictive models (for Ear and Knee disability conditions). As explained by the government, development and design of these models is contingent on prompt receipt of this data.

A delay of 56 business days was experienced between the date of the award - Monday September 28th, 2015 (not included) and the date Pro-SphereTek received the subject data from the government - Friday December 18th, 2015 (included).

*Note: the 56 day delay also excludes the following designated Federal Holidays*:

* Monday, 10/12/2015 Columbus Day
* Wednesday, 11/16/2015 Veterans Day
* Thursday, 11/26/2015 Thanks giving Day

Pro-SphereTek requests a “no-cost” task order modification to reflect a “day-for-day” rescheduling of the January 27, 2016 due dates for the subject contract deliverables (the predictive modes for the Ear and Knee).

The new due dates for these deliverables would be April 15, 2016, commensurate with the 56 business day government delay in delivery of the required data. (*Note, this excludes the designated federal holiday of Monday, 2/15/2016 for George Washington’s Birthday*).

Once approved, Pro-SphereTek will revise its master project schedule to reflect scope and schedule changes made necessary by the absence of MITRE’s predictive models and the delay in receipt of the related source data. The following tasks are those impacted by this issue:

* Compiling Ear Model Feature Set Extract (~500K records)
* Analysis and Ear Model Reconstruction
* Testing and Refinement of Ear Model
* Compiling Knee Model Feature Set Extract (~500K Records)**[[1]](#footnote-1)**
* Analysis and Knee Model Reconstruction**[[2]](#footnote-2)**
* Testing and Refinement of Knee Model**[[3]](#footnote-3)**
* Draft Model Delivery (both) and VACI Review and Evaluation
* Refinement and Delivery of Final Models (Both)

Four associated conditions apply to this modification request and new deliverable due dates:

1. As the Data originally supplied to MITRE was the same Data the government delivered to BCDS Team (Without any Outcomes/ Formulas) on Friday 12/18/2015, instead of an additional work request regarding the cleaning and optimization of this Data, we have already and will utilize the days/ dates between that delivery day/ date and Wednesday 1/27/2016 to understand, work on and optimize that Data into to Good Usable Data.
2. Based on the outcome(s) from above (# 1.) Artifacts originally due on Wednesday 1/27/2016 will be delayed and delivered no later than Wednesday 2/10/2016 (10 business days).
3. This schedule change/ modification is created on the basis that VACI will locate /obtain the predictive Knee Characteristics (Feature Sets) identified by MITRE as those most critical in determining the rating for the Knee (similar to those identified for the Ear) and deliver to the BCDS Team by Wednesday 1/27/2016 so this change request/ schedule can be maintained.
4. This schedule change / modification is created on the basis the VACI will locate and obtain the already requested missing Ear deliverables (Engineering Notebook #3, page 2, specifically references the file: (*combined\_history\_2014-07-01-aligned-extracted-sc1.csv*) associated with finalization of the Ear Model and deliver to the BCDS Team by Wednesday 1/27/2016 so this change request/ schedule can be maintained.

1. ***Contingent on receipt of Knee Model Feature Definitions from MITRE*** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ***Contingent on receipt of Knee Model Feature Definitions from MITRE*** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ***Contingent on receipt of Knee Model Feature Definitions from MITRE*** [↑](#footnote-ref-3)