



Single Source Justification (Simplified Acquisition)

Section A: General Contract Information

Is this a Bridge Action as defined in the [AF Bridge Action Reduction Plan](#)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Contracting Activity: AFRL/PZLEQ

Project/Program Name: Hitachi SU-70 Electron Microscope Maintenance Agreement

Purchase Request / Local ID Number: TBD

Estimated Contract Cost (including Options): [REDACTED]

Section B: Description of the Supplies/Services Required

The Sensors Program Office (RY) owns a Hitachi SU-70 microscope. Maintenance services are essential to maintain functionality and availability of this system and its components for the R&D mission. The contractor shall perform annual Preventative Maintenance (PM) and provide unlimited Corrective Maintenance (CM) calls. Telephone and email support shall be included as service provided by the contractor.

Section C: Justification for Soliciting from a Single Source or Brand Name

At this time, there are no other vendors or small business opportunities due to the proprietary nature of the technology produced by the manufacturer, Hitachi High-Tech America, Inc. Hitachi is a large business and is the only vendor authorized to perform preventative and emergency maintenance services on the scanning electron microscope. Hitachi is actively registered in SAM.gov with no exclusions. The estimated cost to replace the existing microscope is approximately \$2.1M. With the current market, lead times for delivery are estimated to be 16 - 18 weeks with additional time to install and train end-users. At this time, replacing the microscope versus continuing the service agreement would cause a lapse in maintenance services. Not having preventative and emergency maintenance services could cause downtime and would stop the mission temporarily until the new microscope is delivered, installed, and end-users are trained. This microscope is one of several pieces of equipment AFRL/RY allows other departments, such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), to use for their research projects.

Section D: Efforts to Obtain Competition

In accordance with FAR Part 10, market research was conducted to see if other vendors could provide maintenance services on the existing system. Internet searches and communications with the manufacturer of the system yielded one result. The manufacturer, Hitachi High-Tech America, Inc., is the only vendor authorized to provide maintenance services on the existing system. A sole source letter from Hitachi was requested and is included in the contract file.

Section E: Steps to Preclude Future Single Source or Brand Name Awards

The Requiring Activity and Contracting Office will continue to perform market research on future acquisitions to see if any new entrants have entered the marketplace and are capable of providing maintenance services on the existing equipment.



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Section F: Contracting Officer's Determination

I have determined, in accordance with [FAR 13.106-1\(b\)\(1\)](#), that the circumstances of this contract action deem only a single source is reasonably available.

Date	Typed Name and Rank/Grade of Contracting Officer	Signature of Contracting Officer
25-Feb-2025	Chris Stokes, DO-02	