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JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL (J & A)
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. **AGENCY AND CONTRACTING ACTIVITY:** Department of the Air Force, HQ AFSOC/LGCQ, Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5273.
2. **NATURE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION BEING PROCESSED:**
The action will be awarded as a new firm fixed price supply contract for commercial items.
3. **DESCRIPTION OF SUPPLIES/SERVICES REQUIRED TO MEET THE AGENCY NEEDS:** Award a contract for purchase of iPad2 Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) devices/accessories for all AFSOC aircrew members. This requirement to be met by one brand-name delivery order for the purchase of 2,861 black Apple iPad2 tablets with 64GB memory and Wi-Fi only (Part Number MC956LL/A), 3,161 AppleCare coverage plans (Part Number S3791LL/A) and 3,161 Apple iPad 10W USB 6-ft Power Adapters (Part Number MC359LL/A).
 - a. Contractor: TBD, must be an authorized Apple Reseller.
 - b. Estimated Cost: [REDACTED]
 - c. Description Breakdown: AFSOC is transitioning to electronic devices capable of maintaining and frequently updating the required publications via a global electronic update infrastructure. This will replace physical paper copies and the manual update process which will reduce printing costs and man hours spent issuing, changing, shipping, distributing, and re-stocking publications both on and off the aircraft. National Geospatial Administration (NGA)-issued DoD Flight Information Publications (FLIP), USAF issued aircraft Tech Orders (T.O.s) and USAF maintained and distributed regulatory publications change frequently. This solution offers a long-term, cost-effective operational solution that has the ability to provide near-instantaneous, seamless, standardized updates to aircrews world-wide, regardless of mission type and location. The intent of this program is to equip each AFSOC aircrew member with their own issued device.
 - d. Specific device requirements follow:
 - i. Device must be capable of using the GoodReader application which meets mission security and synchronization requirements. Operation of this application requires the iOS operating system and its inherent security features.
 - ii. Device must be compatible with NGA's flight publication application (iOS) which is to be the NGA's standard method of distribution for FLIP to mobile electronic devices.
 - iii. Device display must be dimmable (in one-percent increments, from zero to 100%) to prevent blinding operators during night time and NVG operations.

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- iv. Device display must have full-time (single-button) polarity-reversing capability in order to facilitate one touch access to reduced lighting night-time operations (while performing critical phase operations in the aircraft).
 - v. As a minimum, device must have 64 Gb of internal memory in order to store the large amount of publications and media required.
 - vi. Device must be Wi-Fi-only. No 3/4G transmit/receive capability is required due to limited world-wide coverage and non-common cellular support. This is in order to provide limited connectivity while complying with stringent mission security requirements.
 - vii. Device battery must function at a minimum for 7+ hours at full brightness, under the full range of operational utilization (i.e. not in standby mode), as device may not have access to charging station until mission completion.
 - viii. In-flight mission requirements dictate that device must have USAF EMI-certification, IAW AFI11-202V3, Section 2.9. Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) Certification of Common Use Carry-On Equipment.
 - ix. Mission requirements dictate that device must be capable of rapidly downloading 1 Gb of data via a standard USB serial connection in less than five minutes.
- e. These descriptions are essential to the Government's minimum EFB requirements.
4. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY PERMITTING OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION:** 10 USC 2304(c) (1), as implemented by FAR 6.302-1(c).
5. **DEMONSTRATION THAT CONTRACTOR'S UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS OR NATURE OF THE ACQUISITION REQUIRES THE USE OF 10 U.S.C. 2304(c) (1) AUTHORITY:** AFSOC conducted a three month ground and flight test evaluation. Multiple tablet devices, software applications, and other potential technical solutions were examined. The evaluation included detailed support, flight regime/environment, human factors, and overall aircrew satisfaction analysis.
- a. This requirement is brand-specific, not-vendor specific. Selected vendor need only be an authorized Apple Reseller.
 - b. Only the Apple iPad2 meets the Government's minimum EFB requirements. No other products can be modified to meet the Government's minimum requirements and no other products can meet the Government's minimum requirements if those requirements were modified to a reasonable extent. This precludes consideration of products manufactured by another company.
6. **DESCRIPTION OF EFFORTS MADE TO ENSURE THAT OFFERS ARE SOLICITED FROM AS MANY POTENTIAL SOURCES AS DEEMED PRACTICAL:** This requirement is brand-specific not vendor specific. Market research indicates that there numerous competing authorized Apple resellers.

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7. **DETERMINATION BY THE CONTRACTING OFFICER THAT THE ANTICIPATED COST TO THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE FAIR AND REASONABLE:** Before making the award the contracting officer shall determine that the proposed price is fair and reasonable in accordance with the relevant parts of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).
8. **DESCRIPTION OF THE MARKET RESEARCH CONDUCTED AND THE RESULTS:** The device evaluation process started in July, 2010. Many different devices with different operating systems were selected to be evaluated.
 - a. HQ AFSOC Standardization and Evaluation serves as the EFB program office of primary responsibility. 623 Air Operation Center (623 AOC), C2 System Division, Hurlburt Field FL, coordinated and oversaw this evaluation. Participating evaluation organizations included the 623 AOC, AFSOC's Mission Planning Support Depot, MITRE, 4 SOS, 8 SOS, 15 SOS, 34 SOS, and the 524 SOS. The evaluation occurred at Hurlburt Field, FL and Cannon AFB NM, from Jul-Oct, 2011.
 - b. AFOSC flight crew members from the 4 SOS, 8 SOS, 15 SOS, 34 SOS and the 524 SOS evaluated the Apple iPad2 and other similar type products on a wide range of AFSOC mission design series (MDS) aircraft. 148 evaluations, including day, night, and NVG, occurred on board MC-130H, AC-130U, PC-12, Do-328, M-28 and CV-22 aircraft. Following each flight, each evaluator individually completed an extensive questionnaire, detailing their experiences with the products and its ease of use, reliability, and MDS compatibility for the Apple iPad2 and other similar type products.
 - c. Knowledgeable individuals in the Government were contacted as part of the market investigation. They detailed recent EFB purchases. They confirmed that currently the Apple iPad2 is the only suitable brand name for EFB use. They detailed that there are many competing authorized Apple resellers. They explained customary practices regarding the purchase of these commercial items.
9. **ANY OTHER FACTS SUPPORTING THE USE OF OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION:** Each device was rated in terms of battery life, illumination, durability, versatility, data transfer speed and overall ease of use throughout both the mission planning process and all flight regimes within the operational environment (to include rapid decompression testing up to 25,000 feet cabin altitude). The results of this evaluation determined ubiquitously that the iPad2 outmatched all peer competitors -- not only meeting or exceeding all AFSOC mission specifications.
10. **A LISTING OF SOURCES, IF ANY, THAT EXPRESSED, IN WRITING, AN INTEREST IN THE ACQUISITION:** No firms have expressed an interest in writing at this time. However, any offers that meet the requirements of this acquisition in response to the synopsis will be considered provided they are an authorized Apple reseller.

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11. A STATEMENT OF THE ACTIONS, IF ANY, THE AGENCY MAY TAKE TO REMOVE OR OVERCOME ANY BARRIERS TO COMPETITION BEFORE ANY SUBSEQUENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES REQUIRED:

The Government intends to engage in continuous market surveillance to keep up with advances in technology and product development. Should products manufactured by another company meet the Government's minimum requirements the Government will solicit on a brand name or equal basis permitting prospective contractors to offer products other than those specifically referenced by brand name.

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12. TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION:

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

NAME: [REDACTED]

DATE: 1 Dec 2011

TITLE: Division Chief CSD

SIGNATURE: [REDACTED]

13. 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.

NAME: [REDACTED]

DATE: 21 DEC 2011

TITLE: Program Manager

SIGNATURE: [REDACTED]

14. CONTRACTING OFFICER CERTIFICATION:

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

NAME: [REDACTED]

DATE: 1 Dec 2011

TITLE: Contracting Officer

SIGNATURE: [REDACTED]

15. LEGAL SUFFICIENCY REVIEW:

I have reviewed the foregoing justification and approval and deem it legally sufficient.

NAME: [REDACTED]

DATE: 27 Dec 2011

TITLE: Legal Counsel

SIGNATURE: [REDACTED]

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APPROVAL

Based on the foregoing justification, I hereby approve the procurement of iPad 2s, Apple iPad USB power adapter, and AppleCare plan on an other than full and open competition basis pursuant to the authority of 10 USC 2304 (c)(1), as implemented by FAR 6.302-1 (c).

Approval is granted subject to availability of funds, and provided that the services and property herein described have otherwise been authorized for acquisition.

NAME: 

DATE: 21 Dec 2011

TITLE: Special Competition Advocate

SIGNATURE: 

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