In 1996 the County selected and installed the Sorbant Oil/Water Separation system after researching and testing various types of filtration systems. Thereafter the County invested approximately $1M to install the proprietary system at numerous County facilities. Currently, the Transit Department is the primary user, and the Internal Services Department/Fleet Management will also participate. Furthermore, the proposed contract allows for additional departments to be added. The system is required to remove pollutants by suspending them in a filter media or pillow, housed in boxed frames inside the various sizes of catch basins. A filtration system is an important part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) federal permit requirement. The permit requires the proper maintenance of the catch basin drains and yearly sampling and analysis of storm water run-off.

The contractor shall furnish all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to perform all routine scheduled maintenance and other services, and emergency repairs as may be required by the County, for its water drainage filtering system manufactured and installed by Sorbant Environmental Corp (Sorbant).
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Contract No.: RQMT1300016

Title: Oil Water Separation Equipment Maintenance/Repair

Procurement Contracting Officer: Aylin Concepcion

Recommendation:

☒ Non-Competitive Contract

Background:
Contract 5477-4/12-4 utilized by Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) and the Internal Services Department (ISD) is set to expire September 30, 2013. The contract provides for the purchase of oil-water separation equipment, maintenance and repair services of the filtration system inside the storm water catch basins at several facilities. There are approximately 195 storm water catch basins located throughout Miami Dade County that require equipment and service. As MDT is the main user department in the contract, MDT has requested a sole source contract with Sorbant Environmental Corp (Sorbant) the incumbent vendor since 1996, and manufacturer of the system. Since then the County has used various types of contracts to procure the services and equipment, including originally awarding a Bid Waiver and them informal and formal competitive solicitations. The replacement sole source contract will enable MDT and ISD to continue to purchase oil-water separation equipment, maintenance and repair services from Sorbant Environmental Corp. upon expiration of the current contract.

In 1996 the County selected and installed the Sorbant Oil/Water Separation system after researching and testing various types of filtration systems. Thereafter the County invested approximately $1M to install the proprietary system at numerous County facilities. Currently, the Transit Department is the primary user, and the Internal Services Department/Fleet Management will also participate. Furthermore, the proposed contract allows for additional departments to be added. The system is required to remove pollutants by suspending them in a filter media or pillow, housed in boxed frames inside the various sizes of catch basins. A filtration system is an important part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) federal permit requirement. The permit requires the proper maintenance of the catch basin drains and yearly sampling and analysis of storm water run-off.

The current contract was awarded in March of 2008 to the manufacturer of the existing filtration system (Sorbant), as a result of a formal open and complete sealed Invitation to Bid process. Two Bidders responded to the solicitation, Sorbant Environmental Corp. and another Bidder offering an alternate system.

The bid offering an alternative system was not compatible with the existing system, requiring the complete replacement of all equipment. This is cost prohibitive and not necessary since the box frames seldom break.

Sorbant advised that it has no distributors for its products and it has not authorized any other company to perform repair services to its patented system.

Recommendation:
Due to the specificity of the system and the federal requirements, it is recommended this project move forward as a non-competitive procurement.

Procurement Contracting Officer: ________________________ Date: _____________
Manager: ________________________ Date: _____________
Justification/Input Document for "Sole Source"

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County, to consistently purchase goods and services using full and open competition. The citizens of Miami-Dade County are best served when we make sound business decisions based on competitive bids or proposals. Early acquisition planning that includes DPM can help to avoid delays to and facilitate effective market research. However, there may be instances where other than full and open competition may be justified. When a user department(s) determines that other than full and open competition is necessary or in the best interest of the County, appropriate justification for that course of action must be submitted to the CA Office for approval in order to waive the competitive bid/proposal process, as a sole source purchase.

Please provide the information requested below to support the need and feasibility for waiving the competitive bid/proposal process.

Purchase Requisition No. Contract #: Date Required: Comm. #: Previous Contract #: Estimated Cost: BCC Date:

1. Purpose of the purchase: Please describe your minimum requirements and the benefits of making the acquisition.

In order to continue the maintenance of existing filters inside all storm water catch basins throughout all five (5) Maintenance Facilities including Bus, Rail and Mover. This is a requirement of MDT's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

2. Uniqueness of vendor's item/service: Please describe how this vendor is uniquely qualified to provide the needed product or service.

The current vendor has been providing uninterrupted services of all storm drains located at MDT's maintenance facilities since 1996. The vendor has demonstrated the ability to provide service on a regular basis, on time and within the budget. Furthermore, the only vendor is the only provider of ancillary parts matching the existing system, should any broken and or damaged parts, including the main frame and pillow casings are encountered during routine maintenance program. Additionally, the absorbent pillow which is the integral part of the entire system, has been determined to be the only effective type of filtration device in separating/removing the oil from run offs in the past evaluation process.

3. Market Research: Please describe your market research and the results thereof. This should include a description of other similar sources or products available in the market, if any, and why they are not acceptable.

During the last bidding process, no other vendor was able to provide a filtration media (pillows) as effective as the one currently being used. More importantly, other participating vendors were not capable of providing ancillary parts to match or fit the existing systems in case any parts are broken or damaged.

4. Proposed Actions: Please describe the actions the department will take to overcome the present barriers to competition prior to any future acquisitions of this product or service.

MDT has invested significant amount of money in capital cost purchasing the existing systems. MDT is not willing or financially capable of discarding the entire existing systems in order to replace them with a new system if, other participating vendors are not able to provide products (pillows) and parts to match the existing. Therefore, it is essential and critical for MDT to receive continuous service and products matching and fitting the systems in order to comply with the NPDES Permit conditions and requirements.

Contact Person and Phone #
Akbar Sharifi, P.E. (786)469-5269

Department Director's Approval Date Approved

1/31/12