

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE EXTENSION OF A CONTRACT**

Contract No.: CW36874
Caption: CARES Operations and Maintenance Support
Proposed Contractor: Dieca Communications dba MegaPath, Inc.
Program: Department of Health, Office of the Chief Technology Officer

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Official Code §2-354.04, 27 DCMR 1304, 1700, 1701, and 2005.2 (b)

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The Government of the District of Columbia, Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) on behalf of DOH IT seeks continuation of services from MegaPath, Inc., for an additional two-month period from October 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015, to provide operations and maintenance support for the DC Department of Health (DOH) Implemented, Information System, Community Automated Reliable Electronic System (CARES).

3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:

The estimated fair and reasonable price for a two-month sole source extension is \$26,670.36.

4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program is a federally funded program that provides healthy supplemental foods, referrals, and nutrition counseling for pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children under the age of five years. The Commodity Supplemental Food Programs (CSFP) is another federally funded program, which works to improve the health of low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, new mothers up to one year postpartum, infants, children up to age six, and elderly people at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA foods. It provides food and administrative funds to States to supplement the diets of these groups.

DOH implemented the CARES system solution network to support a number of these program operations and management functions, such as certifying applicants, monitoring food vendors, tracking participation and expenditures and managing appointments. This network is required to operate the WIC CARES program which enables DOH to provide benefits to District resident woman and children at 23 provider sites throughout the District.

DOH IT department is currently in the process of migrating the network component of the WIC CARES system solution to the District's DCNet network. This process was initiated in the first quarter of FY15 and anticipated to have been completed by the end of FY15. As part of this network transference to DCNet, several modifications to the application code of the CARES system solution required additional testing intervals to ensure this critical solution will work on the new network. In addition, over half of the 23 provider sites requested a change to site implementation plan due to unplanned citizen events that limited the number of implementation sites per day from two (2) to one (1) site per day. As a result of the above unforeseen events, DOH requires a two-month extension to complete the final stages of the migration process, and does not expect to continue any external service beyond the end of Nov. 30, 2015.

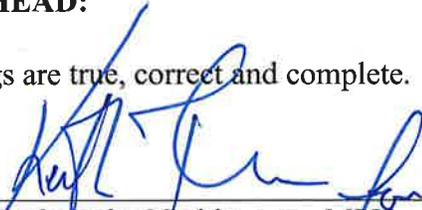
No market research has been conducted for this extension because there is no firm that can quickly setup this infrastructure in order to prevent a complete shutdown of this service. In addition, MegaPath owns the IP addresses used to communicate on the private network between DOH and the 23 provider sites to provide these services to the District citizens. Since the IP assigned on the current network are owned by MegaPath, any change to a new network contractor (who will not have access to these IP addresses) will disrupt continuity of operations for the agency and cause further delay in the completion of the migration project to DCNet.

Although various components make up an IT solution, they are not mutually exclusive of each other. A change to the network provider (the contractor) would require configuration deviations in the CARES solution applications and the workstations at the 23 different site locations. A change to a new network contractor will require at minimal a repeat of the 3-months it took to complete the application and workstation configuration modifications for the migration to DCNet network, costing the District an unnecessary and substantial amount more in taxpayer dollars. For these reasons, it will not be economical to use any other method of procurement to complete the remaining two months of the migration project. This would result in higher costs and a longer procurement period, causing an approximate three month of service interruption for providing these benefits to District citizens and unacceptable delays in the completion of this migration effort for this critical project that provides network support to a system which aids the District's pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children by providing healthy supplemental foods, referrals, and nutrition counseling.

5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

Date



LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, MPH
Director, Department of Health

6. CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER:

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority. I certify that the notice of intent to award a sole source contract was published in accordance with Section 404(c) of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Official Code §2-354.04) and that no response was received. I recommend that the Chief Procurement Officer approve the use of the sole source procurement method for this proposed contract.

Date

Hakima Muhammad
Contracting Officer

DETERMINATION

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive solicitation process under either Section 303, 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; D.C. Official Code § 2-354.02 or 2-354.03). According, I determine that the District is justified in the sole source extension method of procurement.

Date

George A. Schutter
Chief Procurement Officer