

**CONTRACTING OFFICER'S STATEMENT REGARDING  
LIMITED SOURCE JUSTIFICATION  
Microwave Relocation Project  
AG-7604-S-08-0039**

**1. Identification of Agency and the Contracting Activity:**

United States Forest Service, WO-AQM CIO Support Branch

**2. Nature and/or Description of Action Being Approved:**

Sole source justification is requested to procure equipment needed to support the Microwave Relocation Project.

Brand name **Harris** equipment is required for installation on the Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Ashley and Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forests. In preparation for meeting the new requirements of the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA) Harris equipment has already been installed on a number of these forests as well as throughout other portions of the geographical area.

Brand name **Alcatel** equipment is required for installation on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Substantial expense has already been allocated by the purchase and installation of Alcatel equipment approximately a year ago. Replacing the remaining needed equipment at this particular site with Alcatel equipment would complete the Salmon-Challis National Forest's microwave relocation and complete the transformation required by CSEA.

Equipment to be purchased is as follows:

1. 7 Ghz Harris TRuepoint 5207 - 7GHz Model # HRS5207- NxDS1 + 2x10-100baseT (Mix Interface)
2. 2 Ghz Alcatel Lucent 9400 AWY microwave radios and multiplex equipment for Forest Service Microwave Relocation Project
3. Radio parts and accessories required for proper installation and function at the appropriate sites for the above specified brands.

**3. Description of Supplies or Services Required to Meet Agency's Need Including Estimated the Value:**

The Harris microwave radio and multiplex equipment is estimated to cost approximately \$\*\*\*\*\*. The Alcatel microwave radio and multiplex equipment is estimated to cost approximately \$\*\*\*\*\*

4a. **Identification of the Justification Rationale (see 8.405-6(a) and (b)) and, if applicable, a demonstration of the proposed contractor's unique qualifications to provide the required supply and service:**

**BRAND NAME - HARRIS:**

**Harris** Stratex Corporation is a major supplier of products for the microwave and for networking equipment marketed in the United States. The procurement of Harris Stratex equipment offers the following advantages to the agency:

- a) **Leverage existing investment:** Approximately 90% of the microwave sites in the agency currently have Harris Stratex microwaves and multiplexers. Standardizing the remaining sites with Harris equipment will allow the sharing of technology among the Forest Service technicians on 5 of the 6 forests. The Salmon-Challis had previously procured some of the required Alcatel equipment last year. Technicians in this area are familiar with this type of equipment.
- b) **Reduce integration costs and time to market:** Support technicians will be able to use the same programming software for initial installation as well as common spare components, common troubleshooting methods, common repair methods, and a single vendor of support for the life of the product. Harris Stratex Interplex ACS 160 Multiplexers and Microwave radios have the same operating features so field employees learn only one process for operating either model.
- c) **Reduce replacement cost and time:** The agency will have a spare cache of parts to share among the forests which will increase the lifespan of the equipment and the decrease the expense of repair and new parts purchase.
- d) **Reduce maintenance costs:** The agency will be able to share parts with other forests thus saving down time on equipment failures.
- e) **Reduce support costs:** Agency technicians currently have had agency/vendor training to support this particular brand equipment. Switching equipment or not standardizing equipment would result in a substantial increase in training cost to maintain the new equipment.
- f) **Federally mandated project completion timeline:** In accordance with the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA), the US Government conducted an auction of radio frequencies (RF) in the 1.7-2.1GigaHertz range. The purpose of the auction was to provide additional RF spectrums to commercial carriers. As a result of the auction, the USDA Forest Service (FS) is required to vacate the auctioned spectrums and transition

the impacted radio networks to other bands by March, 2010. In preparation for meeting the federally mandated requirements and timelines outlined in the CSEA, the FS has a requirement to transition its microwave radio capital assets to an approved band on as many as seventy-six (76) microwave sites located across nine (9) National Forests.

The procurement of Harris equipment will enable the FS to obtain current and future cost savings while meeting the federally mandated timeline to complete the CSEA project and expend Spectrum Relocation Funds (SRF) by March, 2010 allocated specifically for the microwave relocation project.

**g) Other Requirements**

The FS has procured a substantial amount of Harris equipment over the past ten years. In order to maintain a standard architecture and meet the CSEA requirements, the FS needs to purchase the remaining required equipment as Harris brand name. Other vendors do not provide the FARSCAN system and the interface to the ACS 160 T1 that is needed to maintain the standard architecture.

- MHSB must use integrated RF Switch instead of an external combiner to reduce RF losses.
- Equipment must be able to handle AMI & B8ZS on an individual T1 basis.
- Handheld keypad is preferred as some sites will be solar powered
- Wideband power supply
- Must be able to mount Hot Standby RF sections indoors in the same enclosure.
- Must have the ability to handle non-standard frequency pairs.
- Radio must be synthesized for spares simplicity
- No requirement for specialized test equipment like spectrum analyzer for card replacement
- Must be manufactured in the USA
- Equipment list be compatible with FARSCAN system used by existing forest systems.
- Channel banks must be capable of communicating at the digital level with all cards supported in the Harris Intraplex ACS 160 T1 Multiplexer.

4b. **Identification of the Justification Rationale (see 8.405-6(a) and (b)) and, if applicable, a demonstration of the proposed contractor's unique qualifications to provide the required supply and service:**

**BRAND NAME – ALCATEL**

- a) **Leverage existing investment:** Alcatel Lucent 9400AWY provides low to medium capacity microwave radios and multiplex equipment. The microwave relocation project on the Salmon Challis National Forest is approximately half way completed using Alcatel equipment. The decision to begin the work on the Salmon-Challis early was based on both safety and economical reasons. The Salmon Challis was faced with constant system failures due to the age of their existing equipment. The procurement of additional Alcatel equipment would complete the microwave relocation project on the Salmon Challis without having to lose the investment made last year on the Alcatel equipment.
- b) **Federally mandated project completion timeline:** The procurement of Alcatel equipment on the Salmon Challis will enable the FS to complete the microwave relocation project without losing the investment made in Alcatel last year while meeting the federally mandated timeline to complete the CSEA project and expend Spectrum Relocation Funds (SRF) by March, 2010 allocated specifically for the microwave relocation project.

5. **Determination by the Ordering Activity Contracting Officer that the Order Represents the Best Value Consistent with 8.404(d):**

The best value to the government is demonstrated by the substantial cost savings that will be obtained by the Forest Service due to the standardization of Harris equipment resulting in the ability to maintain lower maintenance costs, standardized training, use of replacement parts, and system maintenance requirements, all while meeting new federally mandated requirements for the microwave equipment Forest Service wide. Historically the purchase of these particular brands yields competitive and market standard pricing. The acquisition of this brand name equipment will be procured competitively to ensure the resultant price paid is obtained at a fair and reasonable price.

Completing the microwave relocation project on the Salmon-Challis National Forests with Alcatel equipment is an exception. However, this exception represents the best value to the government. The procurement of additional Alcatel equipment to complete the work already started on the Salmon-Challis NF's will enable to the FS to complete the project without having to lose the investment made last year and still meet the federally mandated timeline to complete the project and expend Spectrum Relocation Funds (SRF) by March 2010 allocated specifically for the microwave relocation project.

6. **A Description of Market Research Conducted Among Schedule Holders and the Results or a Statement of the Reason Market Research Was Not Conducted:**

Market research was conducted to determine if there was a substantial cost benefit to standardize equipment with the existing new equipment. It was determined that enough of the equipment has been recently replaced with the respective requested brands that it would not be cost effective to re-procure a different brand of equipment to replace those already updated in order to maintain standardization which has become a big part of the federally mandated updates. The Government would sustain substantial duplication of costs in doing so. Standardization of equipment to that of the new existing represents the most cost effective and efficient manner of replacement which will also result in less turn over time in operations of the equipment.

7. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Justification:**

N/A

8. **A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome Any Barriers That Led to the Restricted Consideration Before Any Subsequent Acquisition for the Supplies or Services is Made:**

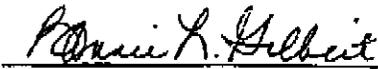
This procurement is intended to be a one time contract effort to replace and update equipment Forest Service wide to ensure compliance with a federally mandated microwave equipment transformation effort.

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

**SUBMITTED:**

  
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**DAVE GERMANN**  
Program/Project Manager

6/23/08  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**BONNIE L. GILBERT**  
Contracting Officer

6/23/08  
DATE

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**H. LAURIE LEWANDOWSKI**  
Competition Advocate

7/1/2008  
DATE