

**LIMITED SOURCES JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL**  
**for Orders or BPAs established under Federal Supply Schedules**

**Solicitation No.: R15PS01717**

**Project Name: WIRELESS RADIO TAGS FOR FISH**

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In accordance with FAR 8.405-6, the proposed contractual action is pursuant to the statutory authority under the Multiple Award Schedule Program [Title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 251, et seq.) and Title 40 U.S.C. 501, Services for Executive Agencies].

1. **Agency and Contracting Activity.** Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office- Acquisition and Financial Management (PN-3700)
2. **Nature/Description of Action.** Purchase from GSA under schedule GS-03F-042BA. This is an established sources contract.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services.**

The products being purchased are Radio Frequency Identification tags for use on fish. The tags are intended to be used in an ongoing multiyear population study of Salmon in the Columbia Cascade Salmon Recovery Project area of responsibility. The attributes that allow these types of radio tags to be viable options for the study of the species being studied are their compact size (5mm x 3mm x 10mm), light weight (0.26g), unique radio signal coding (164 KHz to 168 KHz) and operational warranty life (41 days).

4. **Authority/Justification Rationale and Demonstration of Contractor's Unique Qualifications.**
  - a. (FAR 8.405-6(b)(1))- Brand name specifications shall not be used unless the particular brand name, product, or feature is essential to the Government's requirements, and market research indicates other companies' similar products, or products lacking the particular feature, do not meet, or cannot be modified to meet, the agency's needs.

**b. Justification.**

Lotek Wireless is the only source reasonably available to provide the RFID tags because they are the only vendor in the world that makes the type of needed tag in the configuration that can be used with fish species being studied. Lotek only sells direct, they do not have any distributors or dealers. PNRO purchased telemetry and recording equipment for use with Lotek's proprietary signal design in 2013 at a cost of over \$20,000.00. In the event that another type of tag became available PNRO would need to repurchase telemetry equipment for that particular tag, which would be economically

irresponsible. Lastly, the integrity of the data would be compromised by using tags from a different manufacturer which would greatly impact the validity of the data collected from previous years. This would be in violation of the Scientific Integrity training that all employees of the BOR were required to take.

c. **Best Value Determination.**

The pricing currently offered by Lotek is below Lotek's GSA Schedule price and is in line with the price paid for the same model tag in 2012. Per FAR Part 8.404(d), GSA has already determined the prices of supplies and fixed-price services, and rates for services offered at hourly rates, under schedule contracts to be fair and reasonable. Therefore, ordering activities are not required to make a separate determination of fair and reasonable pricing. In addition, due to the highly specialized nature of the product and lack of distributors, the Government is confident the pricing can be deemed to be fair and reasonable.

5. **Description of Market Research.**

Market research was conducted via the World Wide Web by using Google and GSA Advantage. Four manufacturers of wildlife tracking tags were discovered. The other three firms are Biosonics Telemetry, BioTrack and SIRTRACK. Biosonics Telemetry does have a GSA contract, however, the smallest tags they make for fish are the acoustic style and do not meet our radio frequency requirement. BioTrack and SIRTRACK specialize in larger tracking devices for saltwater fish, reptiles, birds and mammals; none of which meet our need. Lotek Wireless is the only firm that could be located that has an appropriate product for the intended application.

6. **Any Other Supporting Facts.**

N/A

7. **Actions Taken to Remove Barriers to Competition.**

At this time, market research indicates that there is no solution to remove competition barriers. The PN Region is using a software/hardware system that was chosen by Reclamation to be used as a way to keep data consistent for reporting. In addition, of the vendors found that manufacture wildlife tracking tags, the issues found were compatibility with the current software/hardware implemented by Reclamation and the size of the tags themselves. The smallest tags will not meet our radio frequency requirement, and the others are too large and may endanger the fish being monitored.