

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

Solicitation No.: R13PS30234

Project Name: Operation and Maintenance of Automated Weather Stations, Reporting of Meteorological Data, and Calculation of Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration Values for the Lower Colorado River Accounting System

In accordance with FAR 6.302, the proposed contractual action is pursuant to the statutory authority of 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(1)

1. **Agency and Contracting Activity.** U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office, Acquisition and Assistance Management Office.
2. **Nature/Description of Action.** The Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office, proposes to enter into a contract with the University of Arizona (U of A) to support the operation and maintenance of weather stations and the reporting of meteorological data. The weather stations of interest include stations along the lower Colorado River which are part of the Arizona Meteorological Network (AZMET). AZMET provides meteorological data required for the computation of evapotranspiration, the water used by plants. Evapotranspiration data is used by farmers to calculate their irrigation needs.

This will be a firm-fixed price contract with appropriated, FY2014 and subsequent fiscal year funds for the option years.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services.** Reclamation requires daily and annual standardized reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) values from AZMET, as well as the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS), stations located along the lower Colorado River to support monitoring and accounting of consumptive use of water from the lower Colorado River.

Reclamation must monitor and account for the consumptive use of water from the lower Colorado River as described in the Consolidated Decree of the United States Supreme Court in *Arizona v. California*, 547 U.S. 150 (2006) and 43 CFR Part 417 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To assist in fulfilling these requirements, the Lower Colorado Water Accounting and Verification group calculates evapotranspiration values for crops and riparian vegetation, and evaporation from open water surfaces along the lower Colorado River and adjacent areas to which Colorado River water is diverted and consumed. These evapotranspiration and evaporation values are used to monitor water use and the efficiency of water use, water exchange programs between water users, and to facilitate consumptive use calculations. These evapotranspiration and evaporation values are dependent upon daily and annual Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration values from AZMET and CIMIS stations located along the lower Colorado River, as well as parameters collected from other sources.

Delivery schedule: Quarterly on-site maintenance whereby each station and the nearby surroundings are cleaned, sensors are compared against appropriate standards, and vegetation conditions upwind of the station, known as the fetch, are documented.

Emergency maintenance as needed to repair and/or replace malfunctioning station components (e.g., sensors, power supplies, data loggers and tower components) on a timely basis.

Data processing on a daily basis to include: a) running quality control checks on incoming data, b) processing the data into useable formats, and c) making the data available at no charge to the government via AZMET’s public access website.

Annual summaries of daily standardized reference evapotranspiration values are also needed.

Period of performance: Period of performance will be a Base Year with four One-Year Option periods. Base year will begin on October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, with the subsequent four years to follow with the same dates.

Estimated value of procurement: The estimated value of this contract is \$244,047.00 for the five year period. (Base Year - \$44,878; Option Year 1 - \$46,763; Option Year 2 - \$48,727; Option Year 3 - \$50,773; Option Year 4 - \$52,906)

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition.

	Authority	FAR Coverage	Application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	41 U.S.C. 253(c)(1)	FAR 6.302-1	Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements
<input type="checkbox"/>	41 U.S.C. 253(c)(2)	FAR 6.302-2	Unusual and compelling urgency
<input type="checkbox"/>	41 U.S.C. 253(c)(3)	FAR 6.302-3	Industrial mobilization; engineering, developmental or research capability; or expert services
<input type="checkbox"/>	41 U.S.C. 253(c)(4)	FAR 6.302-4	International Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/>	41 U.S.C. 253(c)(5)	FAR 6.302-5	Authorized or required by statute
<input type="checkbox"/>	41 U.S.C. 253(c)(6)	FAR 6.302-6	National Security
<input type="checkbox"/>	41 U.S.C. 253(c)(7)	FAR 6.302-7	Public Interest

5. Demonstration of Contractor’s Unique Qualifications.

U of A is the sole operator and administrator of the AZMET system. There are no other entities that can provide the necessary operation and maintenance of the weather stations and associated data delivery to meet Reclamation requirements. Additionally, there are no other weather station networks in the State of Arizona that could provide the equivalent information.

Additionally, AZMET personnel possess the expertise, knowledge, experience, and access to data required to calculate the Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration values required by Reclamation for the Water Accounting and Verification program. The values produced by AZMET also carry the weight, confidence, and integrity of the AZMET program and the University of Arizona. Consequently, the University of Arizona is the only viable source for this contracted effort.

In addition, Reclamation does not incur any capital expenditures for purchase and installation of the weather station network, and Reclamation is only required to provide partial funding for the operation and maintenance of these weather stations. Other entities as well as U of A provide funding and in-kind services.

If this existing weather station network did not exist and was not operated by U of A, the following are cost estimates to purchase, install and maintain an equivalent system. These estimates are derived from actual costs incurred by U of A.

1. Purchase and installation of 11 weather stations currently represented in the contract: \$170,500.00
 2. Operation, maintenance, and data calculations (5 year period) currently represented in the contract: \$311,750.00
 3. The above figures do not include additional costs that would be incurred in determining station locations and securing permissions to locate stations on private lands.
- 6. Description of efforts made to maximize competition.** A web-based search was done to verify that no other equivalent weather station networks are present in the project area. No competition is anticipated for this procurement as typically only State agencies, Federal agencies, and educational institutions operate and maintain weather station networks. These are 'not for profit' systems.
- 7. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Cost.**
The estimated total cost of this requirement is \$244,047 over five years. This amount has been determined to be fair and reasonable based on a review of the contractor's cost proposal.

The University's cost proposal represents a portion of the total budget to operate and maintain AZMET. Reclamation is one of several agencies that are funding the AZMET's operating budget.

8. **Description of Market Research Conducted.** U of A has been providing Reclamation equivalent services since 2004. Because U of A operates a state wide network of weather stations and coordinates for the placement of these stations on private lands, and works with multiple stakeholders in the area other than Reclamation to maintain this network, there are no other suitable alternatives for acquiring these services and associated data. Additionally, Reclamation received total capital and operating costs from U of A to ensure Reclamations' contract price is fair and reasonable, and compared estimates of this contract with the previous U of A contract to ensure pricing is not unreasonable with respect to expected rates of inflation.
9. **Any Other Supporting Facts.** AZMET is the sole system for the State of Arizona, thus the University of Arizona is the only entity able to provide the services required.
10. **Listing of Interested Sources.** NA
11. **Actions Taken to Remove Barriers to Competition.** There are no actions that can be taken to remove the barriers to competition on subsequent acquisitions for these services. The University of Arizona is the only entity in the State of Arizona that is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the AZMET program.