



Filing Summary

Approval - Contract should be filed a minimum of 10 working days prior to the proposed start date of services.

Agency: 477 - Department of Fish and Wildlife
Filing Number:
Reference Number: 89675
Agency Contract Number: PF220156AW
Filed By: Angella Ward
DES Decision Date:

Contractor Information

Legal Name Vectronic Aerospace Inc
DBA
UBI
Address 3292 Ridgeway Drive, Suite C, Coralville, IA USA 52241

Contract Information

Procurement Sole Source
Service Description JA Noncapitalized Assets
Contract Purpose Vectronic Survey 1D GPS collars along with activation, subscription and download fees to be used for bighorn sheep monitoring from February 2023 to February 2027.

Fund Source

Filing Number	Federal	State	Other	Total
This Filing		\$55,000		\$55,000
Contract Total				\$55,000

Contract Dates

Filed Date	Start Date	End Date
05/17/2022	06/03/2022	06/30/2022

Contacts

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Angella Ward	(360)902-2311	angella.ward@dfw.wa.gov	In Process
Allan Remigio	(360)902-2617	allan.remigio@dfw.wa.gov	Processed
Angella Ward	(360)902-2311	angella.ward@dfw.wa.gov	Processed

Current State Employees

Not Applicable

Former State Employees

Not Applicable

Filing Justification

Specific Problem or Need

What is the business need or problem that requires this contract?

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (hereafter, the Department) documented an all-age die-off during the winter of 2009-2010 from an exposure to Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (hereafter Movi) in the Yakima Canyon bighorn sheep herd. Movi causes pneumonia in wild bighorn sheep and adults that survive the initial die-off are resistant to the pathogen. Unfortunately, a small proportion (5-15%) of these resistant individuals will become pathogen carriers. These carriers will infect lamb cohorts resulting in approximately a 90% juvenile die-off annually. This cycle may continue for decades and potentially lead to extirpation. In 2021 the Department conducted the first year of Test and Remove management in the Yakima Canyon population to eradicate Movi. This management strategy requires staff to capture, uniquely mark, and sample for Movi before releasing each animal back to the population. Movi samples are analyzed at Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (hereafter, WADDL) which may take a few weeks. Individuals identified as Movi positive are located and removed (culled) from the population. It is critical for staff to be able to relocate all individuals with the ability to visually identify each animal in the field which tested positive at capture. In 2022 the Department was approached by Frances Cassier, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Research Scientist, to participate in a research proposal to investigate the efficacy of Test and Remove management across multiple populations throughout the Western U.S. This will require an expansion of our collaring in the Yakima Canyon population by securing an additional 10 collars (above the collars purchased in 2021) and will require the Department to initiate collaring and testing in the Cleman Mountain herd with the purchase of 45 collars. The Yakima Canyon population is currently estimated at > 110 individuals separated in 5 sub-populations, while the Cleman Mountain population is estimated at approximately 150 individuals in

2 sub-population. In 2022, through the end of this project the Department is planning to use Global Positioning System (GPS) in association with Globalstar satellite systems and alpha numeric colored banding. This system will provide staff with a cost-effective means to monitor and locate each sampled bighorn sheep whether in the office or the field to facilitate efficient removal of animals identified as carriers. As Movi is removed from each sub-population it will be essential for staff to understand the probability of Movi transmission between sub populations and spatial data generated by these collars will determine future sampling patterns across each sub-population. The spatial data required for this analysis can only be generated by collars containing GPS technology.

Sole Source Criteria

Describe the unique features, qualifications, abilities or expertise of the contractor proposed for this sole source contract.

The Department has been using Vectronic GPS radio-collars since 2007 to study a wide range of species including elk, black-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goats, cougars, wolves, and black bears. Vectronic manufactures their GPS radio-collars to the exact specifications of Department staff and maintains familiarity and expertise on Department research projects, monitoring efforts, information needs, and corporate databases. These collars use GPS and the Globalstar satellite technologies that deliver high-accuracy locational data daily directly to Department email accounts and corporate databases. The Department's system is designed specifically for use with Vectronic collars and is fully automated allowing for maximum efficiency in data collection and processing which minimizes costs in staff time and resources. Vectronic provide a wide array of collar band colors and alpha-numeric marking which is necessary for identifying individuals in the field.

What kind of market research did the agency conduct to conclude that alternative sources were inappropriate or unavailable? Provide a narrative description of the agency's due diligence in determining the basis for the sole source contract, including methods used by the agency to conduct a review of available sources such as researching trade publications, industry newsletters and the internet; contacting similar service providers; and reviewing statewide pricing trends and/or agreements. Include a list of businesses contacted (if you state that no other businesses were contacted, explain why not), date of contact, method of contact (telephone, mail, e-mail, other), and documentation demonstrating an explanation of why those businesses could not or would not, under any circumstances, perform the contract; or an explanation of why the agency has determined that no businesses other than the prospective contractor can perform the contract

The Department continually researches new product developments from the four largest manufactures of radio collar equipment (Vectronic Aerospace, ATS, Telonics, and Lotek) and Vectronic continues to provide the most cost effective and reliable collars available. The Department currently uses four separate radio-collar designs for ongoing studies (Vertex Plus, Vertex Lite, Vertex Survey and Vertex MINIS) in several locations in the state. Lotek is the only other company that makes a collar with specifications comparable to the Vertex collars, but Vectronic products are consistently cheaper and more reliable. The Department initially used the Lotek design as part of an elk study in the Colockum elk herd but finished the study using Vectronic collars because most of the Lotek collars malfunctioned and did not perform as promised. The Department is currently conducting a study using Vectronics Vertex MINIS on elk calves and they are performing exceptionally with zero failures thus far. Vectronics has worked with the Department to produce products to our standards while keeping their cost low. As an example, the Department requested Vectronics to manufacture a protective cordura sheath to cover an expandable neckband which often snags resulting in premature stretching and drop-off. Premature drop-off is a continual problem when working with neonate ungulates and rates of 40% have been documented, but these collars have been extremely successful with a drop-off rate of < 8% thus far. The have also accommodated our request for collar colors and alpha-numeric labeling at a low cost. Vectronics also creates an inexpensive and functional drop-off mechanism which cost 1/10 the price when compared to Lotek. This will often save 30% on overall costs. Obtaining collars from the same manufacturer further benefits the Department by ensuring data continuity among the Department's various monitoring programs and research studies over time and between geographic locations. It also reduces Department costs by eliminating the need for new/additional software and the time required for staff to learn and implement a new data management system. The Department has already designed fully automated databases specifically for use with Vectronic collars which has maximized our efficiency in data collection and processing and minimized associated demands on staff time and resources.

What considerations were given to providing opportunities in this contract for small business, including but not limited to unbundling the goods and/or services acquired.

None

Provide a detailed and compelling description that includes quantification of the costs and risks mitigated by contracting with this contractor (i.e. learning curve, follow-up nature).

Department staff have consistently found that Vectronic GPS radio collars are the most reliable and cost-effective products available on the market. Specific to ungulate work, WDFW staff have been using these collars to study black-tailed deer over the past 13 years, moose and bighorn sheep over the past 7 years, mountain goat over the past 5 years, elk over the past 6 years, neonate elk over the past year and mule deer for 6 years and white-tailed deer for 4 years. Vectronic has produced collars which function at the highest standard and are consistently reliable. Because of these successful long-term projects, Department staff are intimately familiar with the hardware and software systems associated with Vectronic collars and require no additional hardware or software purchases or loss of staff time associated with learning and implementing a new system. Purchase of collars from a different manufacturer would unnecessarily increase Department costs by requiring additional purchases of associated manufacturer-specific hardware and software and increase demands on staff time to learn and implement a new system.

Is the agency proposing this sole source contract because of special circumstances such as confidential investigations, copyright restrictions, etc.? If so, please describe.

NO

Is the agency proposing this sole source contract because of unavoidable, critical time delays or issues that prevented the agency from completing this acquisition using a competitive process? If so, please describe. For example, if time constraints are applicable, identify when the agency was on notice of the need for the goods and/or service, the entity that imposed the constraints, explain the authority of that entity to impose them, and provide the timelines which work must be accomplished.

NO

Is the agency proposing this sole source contract because of a geographic limitation? If the proposed contractor is the only source available in the geographical area, state the basis for this conclusion and the rationale for limiting the size of the geographical area selected.

NO

What are the consequences of not having this sole source filing approved? Describe in detail the impact to the agency and to services it provides if this sole source filing is not approved.

Approval of this sole source filing is critical to the success of the Department's Test and Remove management strategy. The ability to collar and relocate individuals identified as Movi carriers is essential in this management action. Collar failures creating the inability to relocate even a single carrier may allow this disease to persist in the population, therefore the most reliable collar system is necessary.

Sole Source Posting

Agency Website Information

Posted to Agency Website on 5/17/2022.

WEBS Information

Posted to WEBS on 5/17/2022.

Response(s) to Posting on WEBS

Time has NOT expired for responding to posting and will notify DES when time expires.

Reasonableness of Cost

Since competition was not used as the means for procurement, how did the agency conclude that the costs, fees, or rates negotiated are fair and reasonable. Please make a comparison with comparable contracts, use the results of a market survey, or employ some other appropriate means calculated to make such a determination.

Department staff compared costs to those offered by other manufacturers (i.e., Advanced Telemetry Systems, Telonics and Lotek) for radio-collars with similar specifications. The Vectronic models provides approximately \$350-\$1000.00 of savings per collar offered by these other manufacturers and some manufactures do not offer services the Department has requested In 2022 the Department staff contacted vendors requesting comparable collar offerings across four vendors and found Vectronic collars to be significantly lower than other per collar with annual data fee includes. Some vendors did not offer services the Department requested: 2022 cost comparison with notes on services not offered by a given vendor. Vendor, model, per collar cost, note of services not provided Vectronic, Survey 1D = \$850 ATS, G5-D = \$1800, Globalstar collars are not available therefore increases overall cost. Telonics, Recon 4560 = \$1145-1350, Unable to create alpha-numeric markings & telonics does not have inhouse data service. The Department would have to find a separate vendor for real-time access of collar data, which is necessary for project objectives. Lotek, GlobalStarTrack = Quote was requested by W. Moore via phone and email correspondence with Erin Harper at eharper@lotek.com but a final quote was never received.

Attachments

.Sole Source Letter Posted.pdf - 499757kb

.Field Order PF220156AW.pdf - 653172kb

Are any documents being sent that are not attached via this system? No

Is the contract or amendment document attached or listed above? Yes