

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

A waiver from the competitive solicitation process may be granted when based upon operational compatibility with existing equipment, strong technological grounds, a unique and cost-effective feature requirement, or when it is clearly in the State's best interest.

1.) Contract Amount:\$ 121,644.00

2.) Requested Supplier: RobotLab

3.) Description of Item/Service:

Nao and Pepper Humanoid robots that run NAOqi OS and programmable through Choreographe w/ sensors, effectors, and computing capability to run advanced speech recognition, computer vision, motion, locomotion, limbs, fingers, necessary and specific to an NSF funded humanoid robotics curriculum.

4.) Establish the reasons The Citadel absolutely requires this specific Item/Service and the unique benefits that will be realized:

The Nao and Pepper Humanoid Robots are the only existing humanoid robots that has the advanced capabilities outlined and were used in the development of the NSF funded curriculum that will be used in an AI + Humanoid Middle School camp that must be available for use by June 3, 2024 for start date of camp at June 10, 2024. This was the only robot that can be used for this curriculum. The camp is funded by the National Science Foundation EPSCoR program and must be run to meet the grant requirements.

5.) Explanation as to why no other supplier can offer a comparable Item/Service:

The Nao and Pepper Humanoid robots are unique robots that run the NAOqi OS and can be programmed with Choreographe, the visual programming on which the AI + Humanoid Middle School camp is based on. These robots possess very specific external and internal design that includes advanced sensors, effectors, speech recognition, computer vision, motion, locomotion, limbs, and fingers necessary to be used in our NSF funded humanoid robotics curriculum that was designed specifically for these capabilities, NAOqi OS, and Choreographe programming capabilities. The research of the interactions, reactions, learning, of the middle school participants are based on these specific capabilities and robots and no other robots can take their place since the curriculum is based on these characteristics.

Right to Protest: If you are aggrieved in connection with the intended award of this project you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-420 (1) South Carolina Code of Laws. Any intent to protest or actual protest must be submitted in writing to the Chief Procurement Officer, Materials Management Office
(a) via email to protest-mmo@mmo.sc.gov or
(b) vis USPS or any other carrier to 1201 Main St., Suite 600, Columbia, SC 29201

I hereby certify that the above information is accurate and request that a waiver from the State mandated bidding process be approved for the procurement of the above stated equipment, commodity, or service.

Based on the determination above, the proposed procurement action described is being procured pursuant to the authority of Section 11-35-1560 of the South Carolina Procurement Code and 19-445.2105 of the Rules and Regulations, 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws.

Andrew B. Williams

SIGNATURE

5/2/24

DATE

Andrew B. Williams

PRINT NAME OF DEPARTMENT HEAD

School of Engineering

DEPARTMENT

FOR PROCUREMENT SERVICES USE ONLY

APPROVED BY: _____
Director of Procurement Services

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY: _____
VP Finance & Business

DATE: _____

*VPFB signature only required for requests over \$100,000

GUIDANCE:

Section 3; Provide a description of the item or service being requested with sufficient detail so that it is clear to the reviewer of this form what is being sought and the purpose it serves.

Section 4; Detail the specifics about the item or service and explain how it is uniquely positioned to meet the need at The Citadel. This section should address the role that will be played by the item/service and how it is positioned to be the only option that will work in this scenario. Factual evidence must be presented to substantiate why this is the sole item/service that will work.

Section 5; Cite the reasons why alternatives would not be acceptable and how comparable products or services from other suppliers could not meet the need. Also, include details about the market research that was performed to substantiate the sole source request. Detail the specific, quantifiable facts as to why this type of item/service cannot be purchased from any other supplier.

The Drug-free Work Place certification must be obtained for sole source procurements greater than \$50,000.