



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.

Health Monitoring Systems (HMS) maintains a secure health data center (EpiCenter) that links hospitals and public health departments by receiving, analyzing and displaying real-time data, allowing epidemiological surveillance monitoring of chronic, acute and other public health conditions of interest. The system also allows alerts to be set whereby if certain conditions are presented at area emergency departments at a greater than expected frequency, DPH staff receive notifications indicating a public health threat may be present and which may prompt further investigation. Additionally, HMS will provide some "optional services," if requested, which will allow DPH to tailor requests to obtain more specific data sets that are not included in EpiCenter's standard services.

2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

Health Monitoring Systems (HMS)
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3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.

Three year agreement plus potential for two additional single year terms. Total cost is \$125,625. The cost during any given year may vary, however, because the agreement allows for "optional services" to be performed at the request of the County during any given year. The full amount of funding for optional services during years 1 to 3 may also be expended during any given year and may also be spent during years 4 or 5 if they are not expended during years 1 to 3. Additionally, the agreement includes the potential for additional healthcare facilities to be connected to HMS' system. If new facilities are connected, each additional facility will require a one-time \$5,000 connection fee and annual \$1,000 maintenance fees each year thereafter. These facilities could be added at any point during the agreement's total term. See the attached agreement Fee Schedule which identifies the average annual funding and includes explanation of how costs may vary from year to year.

4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.

A critical component of epidemiological surveillance is being able to acquire real time data from local hospital emergency rooms where significant public health threats are most likely to be identified in patients. Six Fresno County hospitals (Community Regional Medical Center, Clovis Community Hospital, Adventist Medical Centers in Reedley and Selma, Saint Agnes Medical Center and Kaiser Hospital each utilize HMS to be able to supply DPH with this critical data. If the County were to discontinue use of HMS to supply this data, the hospitals would be required to acquire and train staff to utilize whichever system the County decides to use. This type of change would come at considerable cost to the hospitals, which have already invested in the existing HMS system. DPH staff does not believe this type of switch would be advantageous to either the County or the facilities currently using HMS' system.

5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.

- ☐ In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
- ☐ When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
- ☐ When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$2,500 whichever is more.
- ☐ When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
- ☐ When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
- ☒ When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.

6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.

The County is required by Federal mandate to engage in syndromic surveillance, which allows Public Health to identify potential public health threats as quickly as possible. HMS' EpiCenter system allows County epidemiologists to access emergency room data, which allows them to target certain disease systems that are of interest to public health, including neurological, flu-like and rash-like symptoms. The surveillance allows epidemiologists to combine emergency room data with data retrieved through other sources in the detection of new disease syndromes and their potential impact to County residents.

7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.

In 2016 the County entered into an agreement (P-16-102-P) with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) for the use of a free syndromic surveillance system, BioSense, with the intention of evaluating BioSense while it and HMS were run concurrently. DPH completed its evaluation during 2017 with a determination that it would not be cost effective to replace HMS' EpiCenter with BioSense. This is because data received from BioSense is "raw" data, requiring significant manipulation to utilize it in a meaningful way, whereas data provided through HMS has already been filtered and categorized such that "canned", relevant reports are readily available and other information is more easily manipulated to produce meaningful surveillance data. In order to effectively use data provided by BioSense, an estimated .5 to 1.0 FTE staff member would be required, in addition to existing staff. This additional staffing cost greatly exceeds the average annual cost of \$25,125 for the proposed HMS agreement. Research into other potential systems was not conducted due to the additional costs that would have to be incurred by the hospitals that currently provide data to DPH through HMS.

jprado 6/25/2018 7:50:43 AM

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Requested By:

Title

I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.

dpomaville 6/25/2018 9:59:12 AM

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

Department Head Signature

gcornuelle 7/11/2018 10:49:19 AM

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Purchasing Manager Signature