

Sole Source Written Determination

Agency Identification: University of South Carolina

Requisition ID#: 1000097916

PO#:

Amount: \$295,790.38

Commodity Code: 938

Description of the agency need that this procurement fulfills:

The University of South Carolina Division of Information Technology requires continued access to NVivo Qualitative Data Analysis Software to support research and instructional activities across the University. NVivo is a qualitative and mixed-methods research platform used by faculty, researchers, graduate students, and students to analyze unstructured data, including text, audio, video, images, surveys, social media content, interviews, focus groups, and scholarly literature.

NVivo has been utilized at the University for more than ten years and has become an established research tool supporting academic programs and research initiatives in the sciences, health sciences, social sciences, education, and other disciplines. Continued access is necessary to support existing research projects, instructional activities, and established workflows that rely on the NVivo platform.

Describe the Market Based on Research Performed:

Market research included a review of qualitative data analysis software available within the marketplace, vendor licensing models, software ownership, maintenance and support structures, and available sources for licensing and technical support. The review confirmed that Lumivero LLC is the owner, publisher, and sole authorized provider of NVivo software licenses, subscriptions, software maintenance, updates, and technical support.

While alternative qualitative research software products exist, the University's requirement is for continued use of the existing NVivo platform and its associated licensing, support, and maintenance services. Existing research projects, instructional materials, training programs, and analytical workflows have been developed using NVivo over many years of institutional use. No third-party reseller or service provider was identified that is authorized to provide NVivo licenses, software updates, maintenance, or manufacturer-supported technical assistance.

Based on the market research performed, Lumivero LLC is the only identified source capable of providing the required software licensing and support necessary to maintain continuity of the University's existing NVivo environment.

Sole Source Vendor Name: Lumivero LLC

Based upon the following determination, Agency proposes to acquire the supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services described herein from the vendor named above per SC Code Ann § 11-35-1560 and SC Regulation 19-445.2105, Sole Source Procurement.

Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services vendor will provide under the contract:

Lumivero LLC will provide a sixty-month subscription for NVivo 15 Per Seat licenses and related software support services. The subscription includes:

NVivo 15 qualitative and mixed-methods research software.

Software licensing for authorized University users.

Access to software updates and enhancements during the subscription period.

Ongoing software maintenance.

Manufacturer-supported technical support.
Continued access to existing NVivo research projects and instructional workflows.

The software will continue to be distributed through the University's software distribution services managed by the Division of Information Technology.

Explain why the described solution is the only solution that meets the agency's need and how no other identified solutions were sufficient.

Lumivero LLC is the sole source for NVivo software licenses, maintenance, updates, and manufacturer-supported technical support. The University's requirement is not simply for qualitative data analysis software in general, but for the continued use and support of the specific NVivo platform that has been deployed throughout the institution for more than a decade.

NVivo is proprietary software owned and distributed exclusively by Lumivero LLC. No other vendor is authorized to provide NVivo licenses, software maintenance, updates, or technical support. Existing research projects, instructional materials, user training programs, and institutional workflows have been developed around the NVivo environment and depend upon continued access to the platform.

Transitioning to a different qualitative research software solution would require substantial retraining of faculty, staff, researchers, and students; migration of existing research data and projects; redevelopment of instructional materials; and modification of established research and analytical workflows. Such a transition would create significant operational disruption, additional costs, and risks to ongoing research and instructional activities.

Because Lumivero LLC is the exclusive provider of NVivo software and the only source capable of providing the required licenses, maintenance, updates, and support, Lumivero LLC is the only solution that meets the University's needs. No other identified solution was sufficient to provide the required continuity, compatibility, and support for the University's existing research and instructional environment.