





**6. Efforts to Obtain Competition:**

No efforts were made to obtain competition. This effort is for the procurement of proprietary materials which are not commercially available. There are no other sources for these vapor-derived proprietary Corning compositions. This proposed vendor is the only manufacturer of these proprietary materials and has not released these materials to any glass distributor. The urgency of this action precludes any efforts to obtain competition if it were available. The Government intends to re-evaluate the market at a later date in order to explore alternative technologies and vendors.

**7. Actions to Increase Competition:**

The Transparent Materials Team will continue to seek out all sources that specialize in fused silica for future requirements in an attempt to increase competition and help locate comparable sources. Each manufacturer of silica has proprietary composition and properties for its particular material and their respective commercial markets. Technical evaluations of new silica sources in the marketplace will be utilized to determine if there are viable sources that can be sought after and considered for competitive solicitations in the future.

**8. Market Research:**

ARL has a focused expertise in transparent ceramic materials whose function is to be cognizant of all technical developments in transparent materials such as silica, borosilicate glass, soda lime glass, glass-ceramics, ALON, spinel, and sapphire. ARL has developed a large database of the performance of many transparent materials, such as transparent polymers, glasses, glass-ceramics, and transparent glass-ceramics. Internet searches for relevant manufacturers and attendance at conferences focused on transparent materials are attended on a regular basis. Due to our known expertise and interest in transparent materials, we are frequently visited by manufacturers of new materials. Corning was one such company and based on their description of their capabilities, it was decided it is in the interest of ARL to evaluate these materials. Concurrently, we were approached by Corning about the benefits of their materials and processes and we have decided to evaluate the two materials. If we find other vendors, we would procure the material under this evaluation program, contingent on available funding. ARL has also contacted various glass distribution vendors to solicit other suppliers that produce large area silica products and will continue to perform this market research on a regular basis.

**9. Interested Sources:**

The synopsis notice required by FAR 5.201 has been waived pursuant to FAR 5.202(a)(2). The approving official will be notified in writing of any interested sources and the disposition of the inquiry. A copy of the synopsis waiver is on file.

**10. Other Facts:**

**a. Procurement History:**

The items being procured have not been purchased before in the past. This will be the initial acquisition of the required fused silica plates.

**b. Acquisition Data Availability:**

None, the required material composition is proprietary to Corning. A technical data package suitable for competition does not exist because this item has not been purchased in the past.

**c. Unusual and Compelling Urgency:**

Requirement is in support of MRAP program

-Clearly describe the reasons that first article testing is required on this procurement.

**d. Subcontracting Competition:**

No Subcontractor is expected to perform on this contract

**e. Follow-on Contracts:**

This is not applicable as the statutory authority FAR 6.302-1 was not implemented.

Date: \_\_\_\_28 April 2010\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_//s//\_\_\_\_\_