

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING
FOR A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of the Chief of Staff
(Division of Data & Strategy)
CAPTION: IT Services for School Performance Data & Reporting
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Tembo Consulting, Inc.
FORMER REQUISITION/PO: RQ987492/PO586158
CONTRACT NO: GAGA-2018-C-0065

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Code 2-354.04.5 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1700

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Chief of Staff needs to procure the information technology (IT) services from Tembo Consulting Inc. to conduct analysis and reporting of school performance data. The Division of Data & Strategy needs to continue the customization of analytical reports using school performance data. The IT services are necessary for the continued data use and reporting utilized via the customized data tool for the remainder of this fiscal year (FY18). In addition, under the proposed contract (GAGA-2018-C-0065), the contractor is building an online data dashboard.

3. ESTIMATED COST:

The proposed contract (GAGA-2018-C-0065) is estimated at \$210,000.

4. VENDOR BACKGROUND & HISTORY (RQ987492/PO586158):

In September 2017, DC Public Schools launched a new 5-year strategic plan called Capital Commitment: 2017-2022 that included an ambitious goal of increasing the number of excellent schools. To meet this goal DCPS is developing and implementing a school improvement and growth strategy based on school and regional need. This strategy must be informed by high quality data on school and regional needs.

The vendor David Stewart, Tembo, Inc. was selected to develop a new analysis report to support the school improvement and growth strategy called the Strategic Regional Analysis (SRA). The SRA brings together data on enrollment and population trends, school demand information from the common lottery, demographics and student risk factors, school quality, facilities and programming. The SRA informs school planning, programming and resource allocation by painting a picture of school and regional factors, and the gaps in different regions of the city the city.

Tembo delivered this analysis in a static report and an interactive Tableau-based dashboard tool. This work involved obtaining student-level data on enrollment, demographics, lottery preferences, attendance, test scores and more and then mapping the data to specific neighborhoods using each student's home address. Tembo combined these aggregated student data with neighborhood-level data collected by other DC agencies and the US Census Bureau and then visualized the findings in a

series of maps that show the characteristics of each school and surrounding neighborhoods across the city. Tembo specifically developed and customized this analysis based on the requirements and needs of DCPS. While the data and findings belong to DCPS, the code and infrastructure the vendor created to generate these reports and tool are owned by Tembo, Inc.

In addition, Tembo supported DCPS on another project, the analysis of school assessment results. Tembo developed a customized test integrity analysis using 2017 student PARCC assessment data. This work involved measuring statistically aberrant changes in student achievement at the classroom level and is an important tool for checking the face validity of high stakes assessments results. DCPS plans to continue using this analysis based on 2018 PARCC results that will be available in the fall.

PROPOSED CONTRACT (GAGA-2018-C-0065): TEMBO, Inc. was founded in 2010 with a mission to provide first-rate data analysis and visualization in the education sector. David Stewart, Founder and CEO, is an expert who has worked on DCPS school scorecards since 2009. Prior to working with the District, he has worked on similar projects in other urban districts undergoing major education reform efforts. TEMBO has now become a trusted partner and analytic leader in the K-12 education sector. TEMBO has worked with public education agencies in DC, including DC Public Schools and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Additionally, the company has worked closely with several states and districts to design and report on the quality of K12 schools and educator preparation programs. The company also designed the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA) state plans and/or report cards for OSSE. TEMBO has worked with several Districts and states such as: DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Louisiana Department of Education, Tennessee State Board of Education and Department of Education, Georgia Department of Education, New Mexico Public Education Department, Idaho State Department of Education, Utah State Board of Education, Delaware State Department of Education, School District of Philadelphia, Indianapolis Public Schools, DC Public Charter School Board, New York City Department of Education, Camden City School District, Shelby County Schools, and Sacramento City Unified School District, among others.

FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT (RQ987492/PO586158):

Tembo is uniquely qualified to faithfully fulfill the details outlined in the scope of work as they are familiar with the District of Columbia’s State Accountability Plan for schools as approved by the United States Department of Education (USDE). The vendor has a strong knowledge base of the intricate business rules and extensive requirements for each school per classification and the support mechanisms that will be established at the State and District level. Additionally, this vendor worked and continues to work directly with the Office of State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to support the roll out of the new accountability system under the USDE’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This will strengthen the harmony between the two systems at each level. Tembo has also created a dynamic interactive online data dashboard for other school districts in many different states that allows the school leaders to manipulate and customize data and reports that is unique to their needs, and DCPS intends to provide a similar product for our school leaders with the customization we need for DCPS. DCPS plans to make this unique data dashboard available via SPDI, our current accountability data platform, and Tembo also has experience working with the SPDI platform, as well as working with the vendor that currently manages SPDI, Tandem. Tembo’s familiarity with DC’s state accountability system, their experience working with DCPS current data system, and their one-of-a-kind interactive data dashboard makes them uniquely qualified to deliver the product we want to make available to our school leaders.

To that end, TEMBO also developed DISCOVER without the assistance of anyone else. The product is proprietary and TEMBO owns all the rights and privileges associated with them. This vendor has worked with the District of Columbia Public Schools for the 10 years providing data tools to schools to enable them to better dive into customized reports. TEMBO has displayed a strong knowledge base and familiarity with the various dcps data systems; more specifically, the vendor has experience working with DCPS' School Performance Data Initiative (SPDI) system.

In light of the above findings a sole source award is in the best interest of DCPS and would be the most efficient and cost-effective procurement method.

CERTIFICATION BY THE DCPS PROGRAM

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and the anticipated cost to DCPS is fair and reasonable.

Date

Office of Chief of Staff, Division of Data & Strategy

CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

Based on the above certified findings in accordance cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1700).

Date

Contracting Officer