



BRAND NAME MANDATORY/BRAND NAME OR EQUAL TEMPLATE

Instructions: This form is used to document the rational basis for the procurement of “Brand Name Mandatory” and document “Brand Name or Equal” product requirements. For more information related to brand name determinations, please refer to AMS T3.2.2.8.A.5.

Program/Project Title: SuperSMITH Software License Renewal

Program Office: Policy & Innovation Division, AIR-600

A. Please indicate if requirement is Brand Name Mandatory or Brand Name or Equal

Brand Name Mandatory

[If Brand Name Mandatory, please complete Sections B&C. If Brand Name or Equal, please complete Sections B&D.]

B. Brand Name Product Description.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Policy & Innovation Division (AIR-600) requires annual maintenance renewal of the SuperSMITH software license. The period of performance for this requirement is from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023. Bathtub Software LLC is one of the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) of SuperSMITH.

C. Rational Basis for Brand Name Mandatory.

The Monitor Safety/Analyze Data (MSAD) development team was chartered by the Aircraft Certification Services (AIR) in November 2006 to develop, prototype, document, and implement a process to support decision making around appropriate actions in support of Continued Operational Safety (COS) from an AIR perspective. This effort included the development of hazard criteria used to identify potential safety issues from aviation fleet data sources, a risk analysis methodology with associated risk thresholds to assist the aviation safety engineers (ASE) in identifying the need for corrective action, the usage of standard taxonomies to facilitate data consistency, a root cause analysis concept to identify underlying causal factors, and a corrective action selection process to identify optimum corrective action.

The FAA has utilized the SuperSMITH course and software in the past and currently several AIR engineers are working with this software. Continuing use of this software will ensure consistency and standardization in approach to root cause analysis studies. Although there are several variations of this course and software available, the FAA has determined that this training and software is geared solely for the use of aviation engineers.

Reliasoft, Weibull-Pro, SuperSMITH, and ALD were all reviewed. Reliasoft, Weibull-Pro, and ALD were found to have software examples that address very generic problems presented for analysis. Often, these have little applicability to aviation needs. Additionally, many of the special techniques (for example, CROW-AMSAA) are not well covered by these three vendors and is a required technique to be utilized by the FAA. SuperSMITH software is geared directly to aviation problems



and special techniques of use to FAA. This is due to the long interaction between SuperSMITH trainers and AIR.

Attendance at the SuperSMITH course includes the software itself. This is vitally important. Other software packages are off-the-shelf, and do not include the training and post-training support that SuperSMITH does, nor do they provide integration with AIR-specific problem analysis. Additionally, there are numerous SuperSMITH experts within AIR available to provide additional peer-to-peer support. Most AIR engineers involved with this analysis have attended the training and are familiar with this software as it has been used in AIR since the MSAD team determined use.

For these reasons, SuperSMITH was found to be the only software manufacturer that meets AIR's minimum requirements.

The Contract Specialist (CS) conducted market research by searching the internet and General Services Administration (GSA) website. The results of the research revealed that the software can be procured through the OEM. Other resellers were not identified on GSA. The CS also received a letter from Carl Tarum, President of Bathtub Software LLC, dated December 05, 2022. Mr. Tarum advised that SuperSMITH software is jointly owned by Fulton Findings (Wes Fulton) and Bathtub Software LLC (Carl Tarum). Either entity is considered to be the OEM Supplier. The product can be procured through the OEM, Bathtub Software LLC, Fulton Findings and its authorized resellers.

Accordingly, the Government intends to conduct a brand name only, limited competition amongst the OEM and its authorized resellers for SuperSMITH software.

D. Brand Name or Equal Product Requirement.

N/A

Service Organization Official Endorsement:

I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance that are included in this rational basis are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Service Organization Official

Date

Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) (if applicable) Endorsement:

Signature of Contracting Officer Representative

Date



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Legal Sufficiency Determination (Brand Name Mandatory Only):

Signature of Legal Representative

Date

Contracting Officer/Purchase Cardholder Determination:

I have determined, in accordance with AMS T3.2.2.8.A.5, that the brand name mandatory or brand name or equal product is in the best interest of the FAA.

Signature of Contracting Officer/Purchase Cardholder

Date