

## SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

A waiver from the competitive solicitation process may be granted when based upon operational compatibility with existing equipment, strong technological grounds, a unique and cost-effective feature requirement, or when it is clearly in the State's best interest.

1.) Contract Amount:\$ \$1,102,500

2.) Requested Supplier: Cyberbit, INC.

### 3.) Description of Item/Service:

Cyberbit Cloud Platform for cybersecurity learning and CBE programs including:

- Cyber Range Live Fire Team Exercises
- Cyber Labs Individual Skill Development
- Hardware equipment for CBE program to run software
- Automated student assessments, reporting dashboards
- Management platform
- Admin and student accounts
- Hands-on cyber security courses aligned with Citadel's curriculum

The agreement for use of equipment and platform as a sole source is for a five year period.

### 4.) Establish the reasons The Citadel absolutely requires this specific Item/Service and the unique benefits that will be realized:

The mission of Department of Cyber and Computer Sciences at The Citadel is to educate Principled Leaders with the essential and cutting-edge cyber and computing skills required by the military, government and industry and who will fill the critical cyber security and computer science talent gap across these sectors.

In order to ensure that the students are ready for workforce, the department should provide a platform that:

- Allows students to experience the real-world cyber-attack vectors which they will confront in their future jobs
- Contains technologies for next-generation cyber skills, like cloud security, ransomware, or malware analysis, and commercial security tools
- Allows students to apply teamwork communication and critical thinking to solve a cyber challenge

The Citadel MUST enhance its program to include the following, by minimum, to provide **workforce-ready graduates** and CBE programs:

1. Hands-on cyber labs for experiential skill development as individuals
2. Live-fire cyber range exercises for teams - simulating complete attacks
3. Essential topics that include cloud security (AWS and Microsoft Azure), critical infrastructure security (industrial control systems), cloud security, forensics, threat hunting, and incident response.
4. Use of market-leading security tools including Splunk, CrowdStrike, Palo Alto Networks, Check Point, IBM QRadar, Carbon Black, f5 Networks, AWS S3, SQS and CloudTrail, and Azure Sentinel and Defender.
5. Online automated measurement of student performance.
6. Alignment with key industry standards including the NICE Cyber Security Framework and the MITRE ATT&CK Framework

### 5.) Explanation as to why no other supplier can offer a comparable Item/Service:

We have concluded that **no other supplier other than Cyberbit** can offer a comparable product and service.

Only Cyberbit was able to demonstrate a combination of these must-have requirements:

1. Hands-on cyber labs for experiential skill development as individuals
2. A catalog of at least 40 live-fire cyber range exercises for teams, simulating complete attacks.
3. Labs and live fire exercises covering the required set of topics including: cloud security (AWS and Microsoft Azure), ransomware, critical infrastructure security (industrial control systems), forensics, malware analysis, threat hunting, incident response, Windows and Linux, and application security.
4. Use of market-leading security tools which must include at least: Splunk, CrowdStrike, Palo Alto Networks, Check Point, IBM QRadar, Carbon Black, f5 Networks, AWS S3, SQS and CloudTrail, and Azure Sentinel and Defender.
5. Ability to simulate full-scale cloud attack
6. Automated measurement of student performance including reports for faculty.
7. Alignment with NICE Cyber Security Framework and the MITRE ATT&CK Framework
8. At least 15 proven customer references in US higher education
9. A customer success team with proven experience in assessing our existing curriculum and creating a hands-on curriculum based on the product
10. US-based support and customer success teams.
11. Citadel is planning on upgrading the service to an in-premise platform that includes live industrial control hardware

I hereby certify that the above information is accurate and request that a waiver from the State mandated bidding process be approved for the procurement of the above stated equipment, commodity, or service.

Based on the determination above, the proposed procurement action described is being procured pursuant to the authority of Section 11-35-1560 of the South Carolina Procurement Code and 19-445.2105 of the Rules and Regulations, 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws.

*Shankar M Banik*

SIGNATURE

9/23/2022

DATE

Shankar M Banik

PRINT NAME OF DEPARTMENT  
HEAD

Cyber and Computer Sciences

DEPARTMENT

**FOR PROCUREMENT SERVICES USE ONLY**

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Procurement Services

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
VP Finance & Business

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*VPFB signature only required for requests over \$100,000

**PROTESTS:** Any actual or prospective bidder, offeror, contractor, or subcontractor aggrieved in connection with the intended award or award of this sole source contract, shall notify the appropriate Chief Procurement officer in writing of its intent to protest within five (5) business days of the date this notice is posted. Any actual or prospective bidder, offeror, contractor, or subcontractor who is aggrieved in connection with the intended award or award of this sole source contract and has timely notified the appropriate chief procurement officer of its intent to protest, may protest to the appropriate chief procurement officer in the manner set forth below within fifteen days of the date this notice is posted; except that a matter that could have been raised as a protest of the solicitation may not be raised as a protest of the award or intended award of a contract. A protest must be in writing, filed with the appropriate chief procurement officer, and set forth the grounds of the protest and the relief requested with enough particularity to give notice of the issues to be decided. The protest must be received by the appropriate chief procurement officer within the time provided above. Days are calculated as provided in S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-310(13).

Any notice of intent to protest and protest must be addressed to the chief procurement officer: Information Technology Management Officer (a) by email to: protest-itmo@itmo.gov (b) by post or hand delivery to: 1201 Main Street, Suite 600, Columbia, SC 29201

**The Drug-free Work Place certification must be obtained for sole source procurements greater than \$50,000.**