

**NOTICE OF INTENDED DECISION
TO ENTER INTO A SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT
(PUR 7778)**

This Notice of Intended Decision to Enter into a Single Source Contract is posted in accordance with Section 287.057(3), Florida Statutes.

AGENCY: Florida Department of Elder Affairs

TITLE: DOEA SS-21-001 ID

Short description of the commodity or service desired: Therapeutic robotic pets to help combat social isolation and depression among older individuals and people living with Alzhiemers Disease and other Related Dementia (ADRD), by improving overall mood and quality of life.

CONTACT

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Internal tracking number, if any:

DMS Single Source number, if applicable:

Date posted:

Time posted:

Commodity or Contractual Service (commodity or United Nation Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC), manufacturer, model, and description, as appropriate):

Commodity Code: 46180000 (Personal safety and protection). Description:

Ageless Innovation’s Joy for All Robotic Companion Pets are lifelike, animatronic pets that are uniquely designed to provide meaningful experiences for older individuals and their families. Through a collection of 10+ studies conducted in various settings by healthcare professionals—including senior living communities, memory care communities, hospitals, and health plans—Ageless Innovation’s Joy for All Companion Pets have repeatedly demonstrated their valuable role in reducing feelings of social isolation and loneliness and improving quality of care and life for older adults, their families, and care providers. Joy for All Companion Pets provide positive impact and benefit to our most vulnerable populations: individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) and those suffering from social isolation and loneliness.

Manufacturer: Ageless Innovation, LLC (sole producer of Joy for All Companion Pets)

Model(s): Joy for All Companions Pets (5 SKUs below):

- A23085 Tuxedo Cat
- A75925 Orange Tabby Cat
- A75945 Silver Cat
- A91085 Golden Pup
- A91105 Freckled Pup

Relevant Codes:

- HS Code: 950300
- US HTS Code: 9503000073
- US ECCN Code: EAR99

Requestor (division, bureau, office, individual, as appropriate):

Bureau of Elder Rights, Anne Chansler

Performance and/or Design Requirements (intended use, function or application, compatibility, requirements; reference to policy, rule, statute or other act of the Legislature, as appropriate):

Joy for All Companion Pets are intended for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias and those suffering from social isolation/loneliness.

By way of background, robotic companion pets offer an alternative to traditional pet therapy, and research shows them to have similar positive effects. Ageless Innovation's Joy for All Companion Pets (cats and dogs) are designed with soft fur that feels real and sensors that respond to motion, touch, and sound, allowing them to react and interact. The cat purrs, meows, and moves its leg, ears, head, and torso in reaction to touch, much like an actual cat. The dog barks when spoken to, wags his tail, nuzzles, turns his head toward sound, and its heart beats when petted.

Product demos can be viewed here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JQGGHm8Eew>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZy5B_vWQyY

A sampling of links to videos that speak to the impact of Joy for All Companion Pets:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kifGkqmoRj8>
- https://youtu.be/BMQpNu_d0vE
- <https://www.winknews.com/2020/06/11/robotic-pets-help-seniors-feel-less-lonely-during-isolation/>
- <https://www.mynbc5.com/article/robotic-pets-could-be-solution-to-social-isolation-depression-in-older-adults/27312491>

The Joy for All: Impact and Benefit white paper that summarizes the findings of 10+ studies can be found here.

The products are designed to meet and are tested to US ASTM F963, US CFG Title 16, USCPSIA Act 2008, California H&S Code Part 3/104, and FCC Party 15 requirements.

Intended Single Source:

Ageless Innovation, 161 Exchange St., Suite 2A, Pawtucket, RI 02860, 1-888-JOY4ALL.

Price:

\$500,000.00

Justification for Single Source Purchase (what is necessary and unique about the commodity, contractual service, or source; steps taken to confirm unavailability of competition, as appropriate):

Joy for All Companion Pets, manufactured by Ageless Innovation, occupy a novel and unique place within the market of robotic pets. A scan of the landscape of robotic companion pets showcases that the Joy for All Companion Pets are the only commercially available products that meet the following criteria: animatronic (i.e. interactive, using AI), realistic/lifelike, and affordable. Furthermore, it is important to point out that many robotic pets (e.g. Paro) were designed and priced for a “1: Many” use case, whereas Joy for All Companion Pets were intentionally designed and priced for “1:1” use in order to provide the most scalable positive impact with older individuals as possible.

Name	Image	Inception	Manufacturer	Lifelike	Furry	Evidence Based	Price
Joy for All Companion Pet: Cat							
2015		Ageless Innovation	Yes	Yes	Yes		\$110
Joy for All Companion Pet: Dog							
2015		Ageless Innovation	Yes	Yes	Yes		\$130
Paro							
2003		Paro US Robotics	Yes	Yes	Yes		\$6,000
Aibo							
1999, 2017		Sony	No	No	No		\$1,800
Miro							
2012		Consequential Robotics	No	No	No		\$3,000

It is also worth noting, that there has been third-party research conducted that validates the aspects of robotic pets that are most important to end users. Specifically, a recent research paper, that included Joy for All Companion Pets found that the Joy for All Cats and Dogs were preferred among a field of 8 robotic pets based on design features that included “familiar animal embodiment (domestic pet), soft fur, interactivity, big, appealing eyes, simulated breathing and movements. Unfamiliar devices were more often seen as toy-like and suitable for children, producing some negative responses”.

Approved By (names & titles, as appropriate, e.g., requestor, requestor management, information systems, budget, purchasing):

Deputy Secretary Greg Ungru

Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, or failure to file a bond or other security within the time allowed for filing a bond, shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes.