

USM SSP 23\_020 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of the Following:

VEMCO Acoustic Receivers & Transmitters

Seventy-five (75) VR2W 69kHz Acoustic Receivers; Twenty-five (25) VR2Tx-69kHz Coded Acoustic Receiver with Transponder; Thirty (30) V9-2x Transmitters; Eighty (80) V12-1x Transmitters; Ten (10) V16-6x Transmitters.

[http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract\\_bid\\_search/bid](http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/bid)  
RFx: 3150004775

Comments/ objections will be received as required per Section 31-7-13 (C) of the Mississippi Code until 2:00 pm (Central Time) on February 14, 2023.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Cathy Catchot- Procurement Coordinator  
USM- Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
703 East Beach Drive  
Ocean Springs MS 39564  
Phone: (228)872-4245  
[cathy.catchot@usm.edu](mailto:cathy.catchot@usm.edu)  
Subject Line must Read: "Sole Source Objection"

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is NOT a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after review of the submitted notice and documents, USM determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then USM will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If USM determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then USM will appeal to the Public Review Board. USM will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.

**Sun-Herald**

Publish Dates:

January 26, 2023

February 2, 2023

The University of Southern Mississippi

**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase (01-2023)**

**23\_020- VEMCO Acoustic Receivers & Transmitters**

The University of Southern Mississippi anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below in “Objections.”

**Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):**

Up to seventy-five (75) VR2W-69kHz Coded Acoustic Receiver (69 kHz) with Bluetooth Lithium Metal Tadiran 5930/F Battery included.

Up to twenty-five (25) VR2Tx-69kHz Coded Acoustic Receiver with Transponder; Tx Pinger Configuration: User configurable; receiver Battery: D-cell Lithium Metal Tadiran 5930/F.

Up to thirty (30) V9-2x Transmitter (Rounded Case).

Up to eighty (80) V13-1x Transmitter (Rounded Case).

Up to ten (10) V16-6x Transmitter (Rounded Case).

Shipping & Handling TBD.

**Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:**

Our awarded grant specifically names the use of this technology because it is reliable and compatible with other ongoing studies related to fish movements. Vemco products are the standard technology for telemetry projects and ensure that future projects are not just compatible but collaborative. By using this technology equipment already in-hand and tags already implanted in fish will be able to be detected.

**Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):**

InnovaSea Marine Systems Canada Inc., makes Vemco telemetry products that have become the industry standard for acoustic telemetry. Only this company makes these tags and receivers.

**Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:**

We estimate the cost for seventy-five (75) VR2W-69kHz Coded Acoustic Receiver (69kHz); estimated cost for one (1) \$1,985.00 for a total cost of \$148,875.00; estimated cost for VR2Tx-69kHz Coded Acoustic Receiver with Transponder estimated cost for one

(1) \$2,370.00 each for a total cost of twenty-five (25) at \$59,250.00; estimated cost for V9-2x Transmitter (Rounded Case) at \$375.00 each for a total cost of thirty (30) at \$11,250.00; estimated cost for V13-1x Transmitter (Rounded Case) \$375.00 each for a total cost of eighty (80) at \$30,000.00; estimated cost for V16-6x Transmitter (Rounded Case) at \$375.00 each for a total cost of ten (10) at \$3,750.00. Prices were obtained from Innovasea quote # Q-06326-1 and represent a fair price that has been relatively stable over the previous five years.

**Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:**

Vemco technology is proprietary of InnovaSea Marine Systems Canada Inc. and therefore is the only vendor. Other acoustic telemetry competitors exist, but based on our own experience the quality of their equipment is both poorer and not compatible with what has become the industry standard.

**Objections**

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not a sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to USM Procurement.

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.  
[submitted by person or entity providing notice]

If, after a review of the submitted notice and documents, USM determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then USM will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If USM determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then USM will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. USM will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.