

USM SSP 23\_035 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of BD FACSMelody Cell Sorter.

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

RFx: 3150005042

Comments/objections will be received as required per Section 31-7-13 (C) of the Mississippi Code until 8:00 a.m. (Central Time) on June 23, 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:

Steve Ballew

Director of Procurement & Contracts 118 College Dr. Box 5003 Hattiesburg, MS 39406

[bids@usm.edu](mailto:bids@usm.edu)

Phone: 601-266-4131

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection USM SSP 23\_035"

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 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.

**Run Dates: 6/8, 6/15**

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 23\_035**

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.

1. Description of the commodity that USM is seeking to procure:

The University of Southern Mississippi is requesting purchase of a BD FACSMelody Cell Sorter. The instrument has four-way sorting capability up to nine colors with blue, red, and violet laser lines. It comes with a 120Psi, 4L air compressor and 4-way temperature control for samples. The cell sorter fully automates initiation and routine tasks, allowing for quick 17-minute start-up and increased user efficiency. The FACSMelody has a streamlined workflow which simplifies gating, compensation, and sorting. The system continuously monitors performance, allowing for rapid automated quality control. The instrument comes with a class II Type A2 Biosafety Cabinet made to house the sorter to avoid potentially harmful aerosols. The FACSMelody also comes with a one-year warranty, followed by three additional years of complete service contract with guaranteed on-site service within 48 hours of contact. Also included is a premium accessory kit with complete reagents and QC products to begin sorting immediately, as well as complete on site training after installation.

2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:

Mississippi INBRE Imaging Core Facility users have several specific needs for current and future research projects, including gene expression, cell analysis, and mutation detection. Addition cell sorting system with a high degree of flexibility to accommodate researchers with a diverse set of experimental goals is essential, and the BD FACSMelody has several unique features which can satisfy the needs of users. The cell sorter has completely automated system startup, including de-bubbling of the sheath fluid and automated optimization of the drop-drive frequency, sheath pressure and amplitude. These features have the system ready to run samples in less than seventeen minutes, increasing facility user productivity. The instrument has a removable nozzle which can be sonicated and the keyed nozzle requires no optical or laser system alignment when replaced. These features will speed up data collection and analysis for core users while also saving money as other systems require frequent chip replacement. The FACSMelody has spatially separated beams each with its own unique optical channel, helping to ensure minimal optical background noise and improve sensitivity. The BD cell sorter also has temperature control of both the sample and the sort tube holder. These features increase flexibility of the system to accommodate the varied needs of core users. Output samples from the FACSMelody can be used for other downstream applications, including integration into the single-cell gene expression analysis workflow with the requested 10X genomics instrument.

3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:

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The BD FACSMelody Cell Sorter has several exclusive features which make it a uniquely capable instrument. The FACSMelody is completely alignment free; laser and optical alignments are fixed alignments with no stepper motors. This allows for a greater ease of use as the system requires no user alignment. The cell sorter utilizes a gel coupled quartz cuvette where the laser beams interrogates the cells, allowing for maximum sensitivity. The BD FACSMelody also contains optical filters with electronic identifier chips which communicate with software to update system configurations after filter changes. This helps save researcher time and prevents experimental user error. These features are unique to the BD FACSMelody and are important qualities for effective and efficient cell sorting.

4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

The cost of the BD FACSMelody is comparable to other cell sorting platforms on the market.

5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:

A 17.8% discount off the listed price of the instrument was negotiated with the vendor.

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>6/8/2023</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>6/15/2023</b>

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steve.ballew@usm.edu

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