

USM SSP 24-018 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of a CTD System that includes the Underwater Unit, Deck Unit, and Water Sampler.

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

RFx: 3150005456

Comments/objections will be received as required per Section 31-7-13 (C) of the Mississippi Code until 2:00 p.m. (Central Time) on February 22, 2024.

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:

Millissa Stork  
Procurement Coordinator  
703 East Beach Dr. Ocean Springs, MS 39564.  
[bids@usm.edu](mailto:bids@usm.edu)  
Phone: 228-818-8001

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection USM SSP 24-018"

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 02/05/2024 AND 02/12/2024.**

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Gulf Coast Research Laboratory**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 24\_018**

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:

- One Hundred and Eighty Two (182) V13-1x-A69-1604; Rounded Case (Sheepshead, Lemon Shark, paddlefish, and Gafftopsail Catfish) Sensors NOT Included; Worldwide Unique ID Codes: TBD; 1) On 1017 days; Power H; Random Delay: 160 to 260 seconds. Loop back to step 1; estimated tag life 1017 days.
- Fifteen (15) V16-6x-A69-9001; Rounded case (Gulf Sturgeon and Lemon Sharks); Sensors NOT Included; Worldwide Unique ID Codes: TBD; 1) On 3321 days; Power H; Random Delay: 60 to 120 seconds; Loop back to step 1; Estimated tag life 3321 days.
- Twenty-five (25) V9-2x-A69-1604; Rounded Case (Gulf Sturgeon and Mangrove Snapper); Sensors NOT included; Worldwide Unique ID Codes; TBD; 1) On 570 days; Power H; Random delay: 160 to 260 seconds: Loop back to step 1; estimated tag life 3321 days.
- One (1) Magnetic Activation Probe for acoustic receivers.
- One (1) Dangerous Goods (Lithium Battery) Handling Fee North America.
- Four (4) NexTrax R1- Transponding Acoustic Receiver; decoding: Generation 2 code map; receiver Battery: 2x D-cell Lithium Metal Tadiran TL-5930/F (Not included); Tx Pinger Config: User configurable; Included Sensors: Tilt, Temperature, Noise, Signal Strength; Transponding: \*Requires a VR100-300 model receiver and VHTx-69kHz; NEXTRAX R1 LEAD TIME IS 8-10 WEEKS.
- Seventeen (17) NexTrak R1 – Transponding Acoustic Receiver; Decoding: Generation 2 code map. Receiver Battery: 2x D-cell Lithium Metal Tadiran TL-5930/F (Not included)

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

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.

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Gulf Coast Research Laboratory**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 24\_018**

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

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.

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

We estimate the cost for Ninety- two (92) V13-1x-A69-1604; Rounded Case (Sheepshead, Lemon Shark, Paddlefish and Gafftopsail Catfish) Estimated cost for one \$343.13- Total for 92 is \$31,567.50; estimated cost for fifteen (15) V16-6x-A69-9001; Rounded Case (Gulf Sturgeon and Lemon Sharks) cost for one \$343.12- Total cost for 15 is \$5,146.88; estimated cost for twenty-five (25) V9-2x-A69-1604; Rounded Case (Gulf Sturgeon and Mangrove Snapper) cost for one \$343.12- Total cost of \$8,578.13; estimated cost for NexTrax R1- Transponding Acoustic Receiver; Decoding: Generation 2 code map cost for one \$2,255.48- Total Cost \$9,021.90. Prices were obtained from Innovasea quote # Q-14026-2 and represent a fair price that has been relatively stable over the previous five years.

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

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.

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>Monday February 5, 2024</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>Monday February 12, 2024</b>

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Gulf Coast Research Laboratory**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 24\_018**

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 by Thursday February 22, 2024, to:

Millissa Stork  
Procurement Coordinator  
703 East Beach Drive. Ocean Springs, MS 39564

**Sealed bid 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 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.