

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 20\_023**

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 LVEM25 is a benchtop electron microscope, capable of operating in transmission electron microscope (TEM), scanning transmission electron microscope (STEM) and electron diffraction (ED) imaging modes. This instrument has a high resolution up to 1 nm and shows high contrast images without the need for staining. The instrument has size dimensions of 2'x 2' with a height of 5' and does not require a dedicated room for housing.
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: LVEM25 electron microscope from DeLong America is the only type available to meet the electron microscopy imaging research needs of our collaborative project with the US Army Engineer and Research Development Center (ERDC). This instrument is the only commercially available electron microscope capable of imaging polymeric and biomaterials to a resolution of 1 nm in transmission electron microscopy (TEM) mode, in addition to imaging in scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM) and electron diffraction (ED) modes, therefore DeLong America is the sole-source for this important instrument.
3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: The supplier, DeLong America is the only supplier for the LVEM25 electron microscope in the United States.

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4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: Based on the instrument's capabilities, and the costs that will be reduced/cut upon the procurement, the amount is reasonable. The instrument can perform measurements whose results are comparable to a fully-fledged instrument for screening purposes. Over the last 3 years, the department has not had a functional TEM instrument and has relied on outsourcing imaging to other academic institutions. Acquisition of the LVEM25 microscope will therefore significantly cut transport, accommodation, and the facility costs that were being paid to these external facilities. The ease of use of the instrument also cuts the cost of having a dedicated full-time technician for the instrument as is the case for larger electron microscopes. The instrument will also not require a service contract.
5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: The department researched for a comparable product and negotiated with the vendor to obtain the lowest possible price.

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>3/6/20</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>3/13/20</b>

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

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Director of Procurement & Contracts

steve.ballew@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 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.