

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 21_005

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 main business requirement is the ability to quickly identify struggling students so that USM can proactively reach out before they get too far behind to pass courses.

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

Dropout Detective is the only solution that analyzes student performance data from Canvas on a daily basis. Dropout Detective offers customizable dashboards to administrators, advisors, sports teams and instructors. As a cloud solution, no traditional IT support from the university is required.

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

The company that owns and operates Dropout Detective is AspirEDU, Inc. The software is their intellectual property and they are the only company that sells and supports it.

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

When we compare the costs of this product to retention of tuition dollars, we believe it is an excellent investment. If USM can save just a small handful of students, those retained tuition dollars will more than pay for this software service.

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

We had received a proposal from this vendor in 2018 and our current proposal is less expensive than that previous one.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	7/24/2020
2nd scheduled	7/31/2020

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

The University of Southern Mississippi
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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.