

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 21_006

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 Qiagen QIASymphony SP automated extraction robot and QIAgility automated liquid handling robot. This integrated solution allows for high-throughput automated extraction of nucleic acids from a wide range of samples, and automated PCR setup in a variety of formats. The Qiagen QIASymphony and QIAgility system will be housed in the University of Southern Mississippi COVID-19 testing facility at the Accelerator campus.

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

The extraction system from this vendor is the only one that allows continuous sample loading and unloading, allowing for uninterrupted workflow, increasing the rate in which nucleic acid extractions can be loaded and completed. Up to 96 samples may be run at a time, with up to 2mL sample volumes. The QIAgility allows for the elimination of manual pipetting in PCR set-up, increasing accuracy. No other product includes normalization of nucleic acid concentrations and the setup of serial dilutions with variable dilution ratios. This is the only instrument that meets the need for increased consumable flexibility, allowing multiple different tube and plate formats and the transfer of samples from one tube type to another. This instrument is vital in continuing and increasing COVID-19 testing at The University of Southern Mississippi.

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

The extraction system from this vendor is the only one which allows continuous sample loading and unloading, allowing for uninterrupted workflow. The flexibility of tube and plate formats is also unique. Supplies for COVID-19 testing are frequently scarce, and the ability to use multiple different supply types on the instruments is essential to ensure no stop in testing due to shortages.

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

The cost of this instrument is reasonable for USM to continue COVID-19 testing.

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

USM negotiated a 14% discount off listed price for instruments on the quote.

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

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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
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.