

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 21\_021**

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: **ACS Spectrophotometer.**
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:  
**We proposed to measure the absorption and attenuation of light to estimate the quality of food for oyster larvae in the Mississippi Sound. The research is aimed at Oyster Reefs and their Sustainability and extremely valuable for developing blue economy in the State of Mississippi. The research requires the measurements of hyperspectral absorption and attenuation coefficients of light in the field because the spectral pattern of absorbed light is closely related to the phytoplankton species that oyster larvae consume. ACS is the only commercially available instrument that can be deployed in the field to measure hyperspectral absorption coefficients (at approximately 80 wavelengths).**
3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: **ACS is manufactured by SeaBird Scientific that measures the spectral absorption and attenuation at a 4 nm resolution from 400 to 730 nm. Our study needs spectral data of absorption and attenuation. The instrument can be deployed in the field and has a depth rating of 500 m, and therefore can be used directly in waters in the Mississippi Sound. ACS is the only commercially available instrument that can be deployed in the field to measure hyperspectral absorption coefficients (at approximately 80 wavelengths).**

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4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: **USM has received a 20% educational discount. We also have an additional credit for trade-in of an AC9, which has stopped functioning.**
5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: **We have negotiated with the manufacturer to give us 20% discount, and additional credit for trade-in.**

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>2/2/2021</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>2/9/2021</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  
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.

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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.