

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 21_022

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: **Campusknot student engagement platform.**
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: **Campusknot is the only company providing this type of secure student engagement platform and has successfully implemented internal controls and securities that enable incorporation through the University's internal login system.**
3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: **Other platforms like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram are not secured at the same level as Campusknot.**
4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: **cost per student license is nominal compared to the potential engagement between faculty, staff, and students. Additional future application through other units also has potential for student-focused programming outside the classroom.**
5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: **USM negotiated with the Campusknot representative to establish a pilot program whereby select faculty, staff, and students tested the service for compatibility and effectiveness in engagement. The price per user was negotiated accordingly.**

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Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	2/8/2021
2nd scheduled	2/15/2021

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.