

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 21_026

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:** Integration of Sequoia LISST-VSF and SeaBird ACS into SeaTrac SP-48 Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV).

The School of Ocean Science and Engineering has received funding to purchase and operate an Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV) in coastal waters of Mississippi to autonomously survey and map the optical and physical properties of the water. The USV purchase is for a standard USV with a CT sensor only and SeaTrac Systems, Inc. (SeaTrac) was awarded the contract to provide its SeaTrac SP-48 USV. To conduct this research, two specialize sensors (Sequoia LISST-VSF and SeaBird AC-S) is needed with the supporting data acquisition and telemetry system. A camera system is also required for situational awareness and remote piloting of the USV.
2. **Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:** USM owns the LISST-VSF and AC-S sensors and will provide them to SeaTrac for integration into the USV. SeaTrac will also include their optional Payload Computer and Telemetry and Camera Piloting Package into the USM USV to meet the project requirements. As SeaTrac is the manufacturer of the USV, this work must be sole source to SeaTrac as no other third party has the knowledge and expertise to perform this work.
3. **Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:** SeaTrac Systems, Inc. will perform the integration because the company manufactures the USV onto which the two sensors will be installed.

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

Contracting SeaTrac to integrate the sensors is the best practice that saves both time and money for the university.

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

commodity: USM negotiated for the best possible price.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	3/1/2021
2nd scheduled	3/8/2021

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.

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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.