

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 21_035

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 commodity USM is seeking to procure is a multi-component highly sensitive O₂ –and CO₂ detection system used to quantify small insect respiration. This can be used to estimate real-time metabolic rates of these tiny animals.**
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: **Sable Systems is the only maker of equipment (and complimentary software) sensitive enough to measure everything from individual larval respiration to adult ant, wasp, and bee respiration. Insect respirometry requires extremely sensitive and accurate equipment, and the study of how insect metabolic rates relate to behavior, morphology, and physiology is a major part of the new research program I am starting in my new lab. Social insect adult and juvenile respirometry is a major part of an NSF grant proposal I recently submitted.**
3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: **Sable Systems is the only maker of equipment (and complimentary software) sensitive enough to measure everything from individual larval respiration to adult ant, wasp, and bee respiration. It is the gold standard in the field and is the only supplier that can provide a set-up capable of so precise measurements as to be reliable for this type of work. Beyond that reason alone, Carl Qualls has offered to give our lab his (soon to be refurbished) Fox Box (Field Oxygen & Carbon Dioxide Analysis system pressure compensated with fuel cell oxygen sensor, CO₂ sensor and integrated mass flow**

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system), which is by far the most expensive component of a Sable Systems respirometry set-up. However, to use this refurbished Fox Box requires that we have the other necessary complimentary and compatible components needed for our setup, which to my knowledge we can only get through Sable Systems.

4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: **The LI-COR 850 is actually less expensive than previous (discontinued) LI-COR models. This is because some options on the 850 are a bit more limited, but specifications of this model have been deemed sufficient for what we need to do. We are saving a significant amount by refurbishing rather than buying a new Fox Box component for this system.**
5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: **We researched other equipment to find a comparable product but no others were located.**

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	5/22/21
2nd scheduled	5/29/21

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"

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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.