

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 21_041

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: **Hypothes.is is a collaborative annotation program that functions within Canvas and allows instructors to assign collaborative annotation projects that involve PDFs and public websites. We piloted this program Fall 2020 and purchased a one-semester contract for Spring 2021 because the program was so successful in our hybrid online environment. Faculty and students were extremely pleased with the program and see it as even more valuable as we return to face-to-face classrooms.**

2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: **Hypothes.is is the only social annotation tool that functions with SpeedGrader and Canvas Files, and this is an important element of using the program as an assignment. Instructors are able to create lesson plans that can be completed, graded, and reviewed in one location within the LMS (students do not have to navigate outside of the LMS). This program allows us to teach analytical reading skills more effectively, and it meets the needs of our particular student group, many of whom need additional assistance with close reading skills. Using Hypothes.is instructors can work with students one-on-one as they read their annotations, and they can assist students in developing their summary and analysis skills more effectively. And, most importantly, students have the opportunity to work with another to build their reading inquiry skills.**

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3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: **The digital annotation service known as Hypothesis is designed, developed, provided, sold, and supported exclusively by Annotation Unlimited, PBC, a Delaware Public Benefit Corporation.**
4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: **The cost of the program averages less than \$4 per student, and we are confident that the benefits we see in student reading and writing skills when they are introduced to social annotation make the program more than reasonable.**
5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: **Hypothesis has offered USM a one-time discount off the usual annual price at this tier of usage.**

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	6/26/21
2nd scheduled	7/3/21

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"

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.

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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.