

USM SSP 22\_014 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchases of the following:

LAI-2200TC- Tall Canopy Package

2-Year Warranty Extension

RFx: 3150004138

[http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract\\_bid\\_search/Bid](http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Bid)

Comments/objections will be received as required per Section 31-7-13 (C) of the Mississippi Code until 8:00 a.m. (Central Time) on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

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 written notice, by 8:00 AM CST, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

to:

Steve Ballew

Director of Procurement & Contracts 118 College Dr. Box 5003 Hattiesburg, MS 39406

[bids@usm.edu](mailto:bids@usm.edu)

Phone: 601-266-4131

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection – USM SSP 22\_014"

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.

**Run Dates:**

**03.08.22**

**03.15.22**

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 22\_014**

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:**

LAI-2200TC Plant Canopy Analyzer

The LAI-2200TC is used to accurately measure Leaf Area Index (LAI). This product has unique capabilities in terms of ability to take measurements any time of the day, as well as corrections for light scattering and the ability to obtain comparative above-canopy measurements in real time, which allow for data to be collected under diverse and changing sky conditions. The instrument also features GPS integration to map LAI measurements in real time.

**2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:**

The instrument will be used to measure LAI efficiently non-destructively in a variety of coastal environments in order to investigate LAI sensitivity to environmental variables. This research is in support of the GCGC's mission to advance understanding of Mississippi's mainland and nearshore coastal environmental and geological processes.

The LAI 2200 TC has several unique features which are not found in other instruments which are necessary for the purposes of our research.

- Computation of gap fraction to calculate LAI using simultaneous measurements of above and below canopy incident radiation, and the ability to log autonomously to obtain above-canopy data.
- Unique design of the optical sensor involving five concentric rings which measure light from five different zenith angles with one reading. This allows for measurements to be taken at any time of day rather than the user needing to wait for a particular sun angle.
- Software correction for light scattering using ancillary data collected by a diffuser cap, allowing for measurements to be taken under various sky conditions, including direct sun.
- View restricting caps, which allow for undesired object to be excluded from the sensor's field of view.
- Ability to measure the LAI of understory plants through simultaneous deployment of both optical sensors

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A non-destructive, indirect method of measurement of LAI is necessary for our research purposes in order to prevent environmental impacts caused by the destruction of vegetation and to allow for reasonable research timetables – methods which involve scanning each leaf in a plot (either in the field with a portable unit or in the lab with collected vegetated samples) are extremely costly in terms of time and would preclude our ability to gather the data necessary to complete planned work. Additionally, other sensors which use different proxies to calculate gap fraction, such as photography do not allow for the same spectral approach to computing LAI, introducing greater potential for error, and importantly, lack the ability to measure understory LAI and the ability to correct for scattering.

**3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:**

LI-COR, Inc.

The LAI-2200TC is the only instrument available with the features listed above, offering the greatest flexibility, accuracy, and efficiency.

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

There are two expenditures for this project:

1. The LAI-2200TC (Tall Canopy Package) (2) LAI-2250 Optical Sensors with 1.5 m data cables, LAI-2270C Control Unit with GPS module, Carrying case and USB Cable. The cost is \$16,800.00.
  2. A (2) two-year warranty extension, which provides a total warranty of (3) three years. The cost is \$2,250.00.
- Included in the purchase is full technical support for the life of the instrument and a support website with highly trained scientists and software upgrades.

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

We have contacted several companies and searched the internet for vendors / software integrators that can provide with accuracy the data needed for our research. We were unable to locate any vendor that had comparable equipment to achieve the quality of quick and accurate results as well as advanced processing options that is needed for the project.

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>03.08.22</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>03.15.22</b>

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Director of Procurement & Contracts  
steve.ballew@usm.edu

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