

USM SSP 23\_006 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchases of the following:

ExamSoft Suite

RFx: 3150004484

[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 September 7<sup>th</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, September 7<sup>th</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 23\_006"

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:**

**08.24.22**

**08.31.22**

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 23\_006**

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:**

ExamSoft Suite; product is licensed annually

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

Currently, our programs only use computerized testing for our students in both undergraduate and graduate courses to better prepare them for licensure exams. ExamSoft is a unique computer-based testing and assessment management solution that provides a complete end-to-end platform including secure & hosted item banking, the unification of objective and subjective assessments via rubrics, extensive scoring & reporting capabilities, as well as being the only vendor that can administer testing offline and securely on Windows and Mac computers so as to eliminate exam interruptions due to server & WiFi issues.

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

ExamSoft is the only vendor that can administer testing offline and securely on Windows and Mac computers so as to eliminate exam interruptions due to server & WiFi issues.

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

The licensing cost for the Exam Soft Suite is \$28/student each semester. The minimum number of licenses each semester is 553, which is sufficient for the number of users within the College.

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

We have researched and used different vendors and products to produce the results needed to provide secure online testing to our students. ExamSoft has been the only vendor to provide secure testing satisfactorily for our Nursing administration and faculty. We have currently been using ExamSoft for the undergraduate nursing programs since 2018 and have been pleased as their product/service integrates well with the university's Canvas platform while allowing secure offline testing to our undergraduate BSN students as well as our Nurse Anesthesia Program students.

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>8.24.22</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>8.31.22</b>

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 – USM SSP 23\_006"**

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

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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.