

USM SSP 23_007 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchases of the following:

All-Inclusive We Build It Better (WBIB) Program:
Exclusively Designed WBIB Snap-On Cart
WBIB Snap-On Tool Kit
WBIB Kit Items
WBIB Instructional Kit
WBIB Teacher Professional Development
WBIB Curriculum
WBIB Technology Kit
WBIB 3-D Printer Kit

RFx: 3150004505

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 7th, 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 7th, 2022, to:

Steve Ballew

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

bids@usm.edu

Phone: 601-266-4131

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection – USM SSP 23_007"

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:

08.23.22

08.30.22

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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:

All-Inclusive We Build It Better (WBIB) Program:
Exclusively Designed WBIB Snap-On Cart
WBIB Snap-On Tool Kit
WBIB Kit Items
WBIB Instructional Kit
WBIB Teacher Professional Development
WBIB Curriculum
WBIB Technology Kit
WBIB 3-D Printer Kit

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

Flightworks, supported by Airbus has developed a unique STEM resource to support middle grades teachers and students. It is the only package to provide extensive classroom tools, online resources, STEM curriculum focused on the engineering design process, that also weaves aviation and engineering history, along with team building and design, and measurement skills needed for the STEM workforce.

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

This STEM curriculum system was recently created during the pandemic. Its development was uniquely supported by Airbus to create a ready to use system of STEM and engineering

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

We are not just purchasing a classroom set of materials, supplies, or tools. This is a whole curricular system, that included materials for both teachers and students, professional

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development in how to use the system, the tools are arranged and housed in a cart with specific inventory methods students learn about as part of working in a team and designing engineering solutions. Each drawer of tools and the container could be purchased separately, but the curriculum which is the roadmap for educators to use those materials in meaningful ways is the most expensive work and product in this system. That curriculum provides directions for teachers, slideshows, videos, classroom notes, classroom handouts. All of this has not been created elsewhere and would take years and a team of curriculum developers with generous backing. Public schools in 12 states are now using this system. We would like to use this with our preservice teachers on campus and share with public schools and classrooms across the state wanting to learn STEM content in engaging and interactive ways.

- 5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:** This curricular system does not exist elsewhere. Knowing and exploring STEM curriculum resources and even developing them is what the faculty and staff in the Center for STEM Education do. We regularly and fully explore the field for new opportunities. We know this to be a unique and incredible new vision and addition to the field of STEM education produced by Flightworks and AirBus.

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Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	08.23.22
2nd scheduled	08.30.22

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

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