

USM SSP 25_007 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of Level Access.

http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Bid

RFx: 3150005922

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 October 11, 2024.

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:

Jacob Cochran

Interim 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 25_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: 9/24, 10/1

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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:

Through the purchase of Level Access' Uniform Digital Accessibility Platform (UDAP) and their Digital Accessibility Maturity Model (DAMM), USM (University of Southern Mississippi) aims to obtain comprehensive visibility of its digital assets. During Phase 1, this will involve testing to assess the level of accessibility across the 4 Subject Domains (i.e., usm.edu; lib.usm.edu; southernmiss.com; online.usm.edu) using UDAP. With the granular information provided by the UDAP, USM will be able to remediate any accessibility issues using the automated accessibility tools created using proprietary testing technology and will be able to use the reporting capabilities contained in the UDAP to review high level remediation recommendations and identify and review accessibility issues while also tracking all the remediation being completed. Additionally, the automated testing tools will provide code level feedback to help guide consistent accessibility application. Meanwhile, all content contributors and developers will be trained using the platform and will have access to both the knowledgebase and the on-demand email as well as chat support to troubleshoot any remediation issues. Also, user flows will be developed using manual and functional testing performed by certified testers who are physically challenged, providing feedback on the lived accessibility challenges faced by physically challenged users. Contemporaneously, USM will be developing the structure for ongoing accessibility requirements as it follows the framework to digital accessibility maturity prescribed by the DAMM model, which

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benchmarks USM's digital accessibility compared to both best practices as well as other organizations..

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

Level Access is the only vendor that provides the type of comprehensive solution that USM requires: this solution provides the Uniform Digital Accessibility Platform, automated remediation toolset, Digital Accessibility Maturity Model (DAMM), and the benefit of over 50 combined experience in accessibility implementation.

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

While other vendors offer some of the services that Level Access provides, no other vendor comprehensively offers the multi-tiered solution provided by implementing the Level Access UDAP with its automated remediation, reporting, remediation tracking, training, knowledgebase and unlimited on-demand support, their DAMM as a means of providing a framework for implementation and robust testing (automatic, manual and functional testing) provided by certified physically challenged testers. Due to its comprehensive and robust proprietary offering, Level Access is uniquely positioned to address USM's requirements thereby assisting USM in moving consistently toward digital maturity.

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

Extensive time and effort were expended to obtain quotes from other vendors. However, those vendors did not have a comprehensive solution. Nevertheless, the prices being quoted by said vendors were much higher than the Level Access price.

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5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:
Extensive time and effort were expended to obtain quotes from various vendors who did not have comprehensive offerings.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	9/24/24
2nd scheduled	10/1/24

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 by October 11, 2024, 8:00 AM CST, to:

Jacob Cochran
Director of Procurement & Contracts
Jacob.Cochran@usm.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection 25_007"

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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.

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