

USM SSP 24_022 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of C-Therm instrument.

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

RFx: 3150005548

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 25, 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 24_022"

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: 3/6, 3/13

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 24_022

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:

C-Therm Trident Thermal Conductivity Instrument with MTPS Sensor

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

We require an instrument conforming to ASTM D7984 with a wide thermal conductivity range of 0.01 to 500W/mK, offering versatility and applicability across a broad spectrum of materials from aerogels and insulation/foams to metal and ceramics. ASTM D7984 specifically states that the sensor requires a “Guard Ring” for a uni-directional heat pulse, MTPS is the only sensor that can fully conform to that ASTM standard.

We require a sensor temperature rating of -50 °C to 200 °C enabling to operating effectively across a range of temperatures, accommodating diverse testing environment and materials. We need versatile “plug &play” calibrations to simplify testing processes for various materials, including liquids, powders, pastes, polymers and composites. This feature is essential and enhances efficiency and flexibility, enabling the testing of different substances with minimal setup requirements. Additionally, it uses reference materials such as Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), LAF6720, Pyroceram, Pyrex, Stainless Steel, and Copper. These materials serve as benchmarks for accurate calibration and comparison, ensuring reliable and precise measurements across different samples.

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

Several vendors, such as TA Instruments, Hukseflux, and KEM Kyoto Electronics, offer thermal conductivity measurement systems. However, upon evaluation, none of these vendors can fulfill the specific requirements needed for our testing. For instance, the FOX 50 Heat Flow Meter from TA Instruments has a thermal conductivity range of 0.1 W/mK to 10 W/mK, which falls short of the broader range provided by C-Therm instruments (0.01 to 500 W/mK). Similarly, the QTM-710/700 from KEM Kyoto Electronics offers a narrower range of 0.03 W/mK to 12 W/mK and a limited measurement temperature range of 5°C to 35°C. These limitations make them unsuitable for our needs, particularly in testing a wide variety of materials. Thus, it is evident that C-Therm Technology is the sole source capable of

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 24_022

providing the required commodity, given its unmatched range, temperature capabilities, and conformity to ASTM standards.

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

With the academic discount, ~\$40,000 is reasonable especially considering its sole source of Modified Transient Plane Source (MTPS) Technique.

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

I have scoured other vendor's websites and specification sheets. None can be verified to meet all of the needs I have mentioned above.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	3/6/24
2nd scheduled	3/13/24

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 March 25, 2024, 8:00 AM CST, to:

Jacob Cochran

Interim Director of Procurement & Contracts

Jacob.Cochran@usm.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection 24_022"

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.

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 24_022

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.