

USM SSP 24\_026 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of Exam Master.

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

RFx: 3150005631

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 April 24, 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

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 24\_026"

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: 4/5, 4/12

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 24\_026**

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:
  - a. Academic Manager (for PA Programs) Based on 2019 NCCPA Blueprint
  - b. Exam Master Online (for PA Programs Based on 2019 NCCPA Blueprint)
  
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:
  - a. **Exam Master Online – A system for enabling student self-study, testing and review** that contains a powerful exam engine, a content selection system, and detailed diagnostic reporting.
    - i. Offers four levels of content selection.
    - ii. Offers test, study, review and learning modes.
    - iii. Provides a “user-created” flash card module.
    - iv. Permits students to submit direct (to publisher) feedback on each question.
    - v. Offers the ability to annotate questions.
  - b. **Academic Manager – A system for enabling faculty to create quizzes, exams and study blocks for students, and includes an exam manager, a content manager, a class manager and a reporting module.**
    - i. Allows faculty to edit Exam Master-provided content.
    - ii. Provides a full set of available item types including the advanced multiple response item type and free response item type with grading and mapping rubrics.
    - iii. Enables both faculty and program collaboration and sharing of content.
    - iv. No other academic testing system integrates with the XComP competency assessment platform.
    - v. Offers a complete set of exam statistics
    - vi. Offers detailed diagnostic scoring on a per user and per class basis.
    - vii. Offers complete item analysis.
    - viii. Includes an integrated electronic monitoring solution.
    - ix. Allows exams to be assigned in a study or review mode only.

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 24\_026**

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

- a. **Exam Master Corporation | PO Box 9326 | Newark, DE 19714 | Phone 1-800-572-3627**
  - i. While some features of Academic Manager and Exam Master Online may be found in other resources, to our knowledge there is no other platform that offers all of these features together.
  - ii. Unique Attributes of both systems working together
  - iii. Few if any academic testing systems allow faculty to see results from both assigned examinations and student-created tests and quizzes.
  - iv. Includes a proprietary set of 3600+ USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 test questions developed exclusively by Exam Master

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

- a. **Total cost for 3 years: \$8,392.80**
- b. This cost is in line with other PA Programs that have good results using this platform and is in accordance with budgeted costs for the USM PA Program.

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

The program director has been part of the design, teaching and testing of students in three Physician Assistant programs and has experience Exam Master, Blackboard and Canvas in creating exams, and with Exam Master and Blackboard in administering grading and analyzing exams to PA students. Neither the Blackboard or Canvas platforms provide the range of capabilities or the focus on Physician Assistant Programs that Exam Mater provides.

Any competitor's product must meet the following minimum requirements:

- 1. Must accommodate mapping of the PA competencies to individual test questions
- 2. Offer a complete set of exam statistics
- 3. Offer detailed diagnostic scoring on a per user and per class basis.
- 4. Offer complete item analysis.
- 5. Includes an integrated electronic monitoring solution.
- 6. Allows exams to be assigned in a study or review mode only.
- 7. Allows faculty to edit vendor-provided content.
- 8. Features must be based on Based on 2019 (or later) NCCPA Blueprint

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 24\_026**

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>4/5/24</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>4/12/24</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 by April 24, 2024, 8:00 AM CST, to:

Jacob Cochran

Director of Procurement & Contracts

Jacob.Cochran@usm.edu

**Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection 24\_026"**

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.