

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 19_020

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: **LPKF Rapid PCB Prototyping Equipment: LPKF ProtoMat S104 S/N, ProtoFlow S/N2 oven S/N.**
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: **These products are being purchased for student use in the USM Eagle Maker Hub to support electronic circuit fabrication and rapid prototyping. After an extensive search, the LPKF ProtoMat S104® was selected due to its unique combination of PCB milling capabilities, solder paste dispensing for SMD fabrication, and pocket milling and panel machining capabilities. Additionally, its automated operation is essential in the intended environment to reduce required operator interactions allowing machine management to be handled by student operators. No other system that fit the basic milling criteria was capable of meeting all of these other requirements.**
3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: **LPKF is an industry leader in the field of rapid prototyping machine development. They are the manufacturer of the LPKF ProtoMat S104®, and the sole source of its availability. The company does not sell through distributors or wholesalers.**
4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: **The LPKF ProtoMat S104® will be used in an environment where, from time-to-time, it may be used at near production level volumes. Reliability is key in this situation,**

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and LPKF products purchased previously by the university have performed without major issues. The LPKF ProtoMat S104® takes the place of three different machines—a PCB milling machine, a solder paste dispensing platform, and a 2D mill for engraving. The LPKF ProtoMat S104® provides versatility necessary for project development by providing multiple solutions to steps involved in rapid prototyping design. By virtue of its reliability, versatility, and design as a rapid prototyping solution, the LPKF ProtoMat S104®’s purchase to fulfill these requirements for the USM Eagle MAKER Hub is a sensible solution.

5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: **This is a unique machine. Based on the searches completed at this time, no other company produces a machine that provides the same set of necessary features as LPKF. Searches were done by typical online means, by searches through industrial trade journals and magazines, and LPKF’s company representatives were asked if there were other competitive machines at or below this price point with the same set of features.**

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	5/25/19
2nd scheduled	6/1/19

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

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Director of Procurement & Contracts

Steve.ballew@usm.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"

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.