

USM SSP 20_005 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of ChatBot.

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

RFx: 3150002394

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 2, 2019.

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

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

Steve.ballew@usm.edu

Phone: 601-266-4131

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.

Run Dates: 9/17 & 9/24

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
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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: **ChatBot Services will assist prospective students and current students with frequently asked questions for the following departments: Graduate School, Registrar's Office, iTech, Financial Aid, Undergraduate Admissions, and Business Services.**
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: **Ivy.ai can be included in all the channels required by our departments and allows each department access to update chatbot content just in time. Ivy.ai has a web crawler that will identify new content from our updated web pages and include this information in the chatbot body of knowledge also referred to as the chatbot "brain".**
3. Explanation of why the source is the only source, person or entity that can provide the required commodity: **Ivy.ai is the only source for the Ivy.ai software. There is no other reseller for this product.**
4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: **The total cost will be shared by departments. This has been mutually agreed upon by all parties participating in the demonstrations and review of products. The first year will benefit from the use of the Southern Miss Grant Fund.**
5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: **After an initial web crawl, we received an estimate of \$39,000 for five departments.**

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After the web redesign and subsequent cleanup of web content, we asked the vendor to crawl again with the idea that less content volume would result in a lower price.

The price after the second crawl was \$38,800 for six departments.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	9/17/19
2nd scheduled	9/24/19

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