

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 20_033

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:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has received funding to develop high performance thermoplastic composite tape materials comprised of specialty polymers which are reinforced with carbon fibers. USM's role is the integration of new polymers into the carbon fiber reinforcements in unusually high levels of quality and performance to advance structural performance requirements of these highly specialized materials in a variety of end-use applications to enhance the protection and performance of US warfighters. For this reason, USM is purchasing a Unidirectional Fiber Thermoplastic Tape Line (UFTTL) to prepare these highly specialized materials within a rapid development infrastructure to meet demands of strategic US Department of Defense (DoD) requirements.

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

The UFTTL being purchased by USM provides an ability to rapidly prepare strategic high performance fiber reinforced thermoplastic matrix polymer composite materials as very lightweight and high strength alternatives to more traditional materials, such as metals which are heavy, to provide superiority to the US warfighter in application. USM School of Polymer Science and Engineering (SPSE) and the advanced polymer composite materials infrastructure it maintains is uniquely positioned to rapidly develop and advance highly desired new lightweight and high strength composite materials of interest and has partnered with DoD to develop these materials. The UFTTL is a unique piece of equipment, which is not commonplace within the industrial base. The high performance unidirectional fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymers prepared from this technique are a new class of highly desirable composite structure precursor materials for DoD and the UFTTL is the only process available to prepare them.

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

C.A. Litzler Co., Inc. (LITZLER) (Cleveland, OH) is the only known company that sells the complex and highly specialized material development equipment to the open market, which prepares the thermoplastic matrix carbon fiber, reinforced "lamina" which are the base materials employed to engineer the broad range of lightweight and high performance structures required by DoD in this program. Therefore, the specialized and complex equipment USM is purchasing from LITZLER is the only available commercial option to prepare the structural precursor at required quality and variability, which is useful for DoD to readily integrate into a broad range of potential end-use applications. The UFTTL, engineered and sold by Litzler, is a single and integrated "turn-key" production line comprised from a series of complex, engineered and high precision components which provide the specialized materials through strict control of alignment, high temperature regulation, precision compaction and finishing components which

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are fully integrated through a single control system which sequences and regulates the entire system. Each end-use application required for USM to develop for DoD in this program have a unique set of physical properties and structural requirements. The UFTTL by LITZLER is readily adaptable and capable to customize unique physical and mechanical properties to develop appropriate materials for the broad range of end-use applications of specific interest for DoD in this program.

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

The LITZLER offer is very reasonable, highly discounted, and has been reviewed and approved by the sponsor. In addition, since the UFTTL is a new technology for the composite industry, LITZLER and USM are creating a unique partnership with LITZLER providing additional in-kind support of USM which advance capabilities and performance of the UFTTL for the needs of DoD.

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

Efforts for the purchase of the possible procurement of a UFTTL began in 2013 prior to a turnkey commercial system being offered. At that time, the only potential option was to hire an outside engineering firm as a consultant to procure and integrate the various components of the system with preliminary cost estimates >\$3M which was not feasible for USM. LITZLER introduced its turnkey UFTTL in 2015 and the original offer was provided to USM. Continued discussions, which include additional compaction and quality capability of the line, have led to this final offer.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	5/28/2020
2nd scheduled	6/4/2020

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

steve.ballew@usm.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"

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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.