

USM SSP 26\_004 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of Terra Dotta.

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

RFx: 3150006463

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 September 4, 2025.

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 26\_004"

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: 8/18, 8/25

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 26\_004**

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:

- *Terra Dotta is software that provides the three offices within the Center International Education tools to market our programs, manage applications and student communication, register student travel for emergency preparedness, and confirm traveler safety through the system. In addition, Terra Dotta is an integration tool between PeopleSoft and SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System).*

2. What efforts were made by the Agency to determine that the proposed provider is the only entity that can provide the commodity needed?

- *Terra Dotta was created by International Education professionals who understand the needs of Study Abroad and International Service offices and they are the only company that provides all the cloud-based services needed from one organization. In addition to being able to market and manage our programs through Terra Dotta, they also provide a safety app to all participants, AlertTraveler. This allows participants to access country intelligence, receive real-time alerts based on their itinerary and location, utilize a check-in button to verify safety, and a help request button to notify administrators of a problem.*

3. What efforts were made to ensure the best possible price for the commodity was obtained?

- *We have worked with the company to be sure they understand how our offices work and our average annual student numbers so that the best rate can be provided.*

4. Why is the commodity the only one that can meet the needs to the Agency?

- *Terra Dotta Software is unique because it is specifically designed for Study Abroad and International Service offices. The applications and website pages can be tailored to the varying requirements when sending and receiving students and faculty.*

5. Why is the amount expended for the commodity reasonable?

- *The amount to be expended for services is reasonable because it provides the International Services office an integration tool between PeopleSoft and SEVIS. For Study Abroad, this software allows us to integrate our website, application, payment system, and additional security features in one place.*

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 26\_004**

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>8/18/25</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>8/25/25</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 September 4, 2026, 8:00 AM CST, to:

Jacob Cochran

Director of Procurement & Contracts

Jacob.Cochran@usm.edu

**Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection 25\_004"**

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.