

USM SSP 26\_016 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of Piestar.

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

RFx: 3150006661

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 January 12, 2026.

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\_016"

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: 12/26, 1/2

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 26\_016**

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:

Piestar DPx implementation fee and annual subscription.

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

Piestar was custom developed specifically for IDeA programs and the particular Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) required by NIH for these programs.

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

Piestar systems are heavily customized to align with NIH policies, compliance, and reporting requirements and procedures. No other software system is available with comparable features and capabilities.

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

Costs are reasonable and using Piestar systems will greatly simplify the management of the MS INBRE.

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

Prices are comparable with what other IDeA programs have paid.

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>12/26/2025</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>01/02/2026</b>

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**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
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Jacob Cochran

Director of Procurement & Contracts

Jacob.Cochran@usm.edu

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