

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 19_002

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: **ExamSoft Suite; product is licensed annually.**
2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: **currently, our programs only use computerized testing for our students in both undergraduate and graduate courses to better prepare them for licensure exams. ExamSoft is a unique computer-based testing and assessment management solution that provides a complete end-to-end platform including secure & hosted item banking, the unification of objective and subjective assessments via rubrics, extensive scoring & reporting capabilities, as well as being the only vendor that can administer testing offline and securely on Windows and Mac computers to eliminate exam interruptions due to server & Wi-Fi issues.**
3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: **ExamSoft is the only vendor that can administer testing offline and securely on Windows and Mac computers to eliminate exam interruptions due to server & Wi-Fi issues.**
4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable: **The licensing cost for the ExamSoft is paid per student each semester. The minimum number of licenses each semester is 553, which is sufficient for the number of users within the College.**

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5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:
- We have researched multiple vendors and products to produce the results needed to provide secure online testing to our students. We are currently using Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor for both undergraduate and graduate programs, which we will not renew for FY19. The university's Canvas platform does not integrate well with undergraduate testing in Respondus and graduate faculty have been unsatisfied with the Respondus proctoring services, preferring live proctoring instead. ExamSoft will allow secure offline testing to our undergraduate students and our Nurse Anesthesia Program students.**

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	7/25/18
2nd scheduled	8/1/18

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"

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

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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.