The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
SSP 19_007

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:

   7 Cups of Tea is an online emotional support service. Through a secure, anonymous bridging technology, we connect those in need of emotional support with our network of Active Listeners, individuals from all walks of life who want to provide compassionate care. Connections to Listeners are private, one-on-one conversations initiated on demand.

2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency: This company is the only service that trains its listeners and offers on-line communities for students.

3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: On-line peer services are a new concept and the support and safety features of this product are very important.

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

   A yearly payment that supplies emotional help for all its students is of great value and will help the high service demand of the campus counseling center. USM Student Counseling Services negotiated a 3-year contract to lessen the annual fee for use.

5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity: The department researched other vendors, but none provided the services needed.
The University of Southern Mississippi

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertisement Schedule</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st scheduled</td>
<td>9/27/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd scheduled</td>
<td>10/04/18</td>
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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 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.