The University of Southern Mississippi

Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

SSP 19_013

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: Integrity 2 VCS, 5 ft. x 7 ft., Table 8 in. thick, Non-Isolated.

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

   Only this equipment will meet our laboratory needs since it is the only equipment that is compatible with the equipment that we already have. Newport Integrity VCS™ offers a worksurface that has ½” tapped hole borders that provide 10% or more usable area compared to other models which is critical to minimize the footprint of this workstation. The frame design of the Integrity VCS™ is also unique since it has integrated leveling feet to ensure proper installation and stability. Newport’s Integrity VCS™ is the only vibration control system that is available with field upgradeable isolation options and allows user to field upgrade the system with casters.

3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity: Newport has been building optical tables and vibration isolation workstations for more than 40 years, longer than any other supplier in the world. They are a US based corporation and optical table and workstation manufacturing headquarters are located in Irvine, California.

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

   Vibration control system proposals can be obtained from other suppliers including Technical Manufacturing Corporation (TMC), Kinetic Systems Inc (KSI) and Vere
but none of these suppliers offers as much system flexibility, performance and features like Newport’s Integrity VCS™. Only Newport offers vibration control systems with field upgradeable isolators to improve isolation performance. Other vendors can provide proposals, but their products do not provide the same level of performance or features as Newport. Newport is also the only one of these suppliers that publishes their prices on-line, so it is easy to verify their pricing as competitive.

5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:
The department contacted a variety of vendors but couldn’t find anyone to provide the needed equipment.

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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
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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.