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\* ALSO ADMITTED IN TENNESSEE

February 21, 2024

22188-1

**VIA EMAIL**

Kim White  
Public Records Officer  
Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services  
3771 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211  
[Kim.White@its.ms.gov](mailto:Kim.White@its.ms.gov)  
[Open.Records@its.ms.gov](mailto:Open.Records@its.ms.gov)

**VIA EMAIL**

Frank Persinger  
FEI Systems  
9755 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 300  
Columbia, Maryland 21046  
[Frank.Persinger@feisystems.com](mailto:Frank.Persinger@feisystems.com)

Re: Notice of Intent to Seek Protective Order – ITS Project File No. 48172

Dear All:

Cognosante, LLC (“Cognosante”) received notice from the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (“ITS”) that FEI Systems submitted a request to obtain records maintained by ITS related to RFP No. 4243 (the “RFP”). This firm has been retained by Cognosante to respond to this request. Specifically, FEI Systems requested “[s]coring sheets for this RFP,” “the notes of the individual evaluators of the RFP[,]” and “the technical proposals, cost proposals and BAFO requests from all responders.” Copies of FEI Systems’ request and ITS’ notice of the request to Cognosante are attached.

Cognosante submitted a bid in response to the RFP. Therefore, its information is subject to FEI Systems’ request. Cognosante has reviewed FEI Systems’ request and determined that the information FEI Systems seeks includes Cognosante’s trade secret, confidential, and proprietary information, including without limitation sensitive financial information, information regarding legal matters, information regarding its internal policies and procedures, and technical information and personnel (collectively, the “Confidential Information”). The Confidential Information is exempt from the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 and should not be disclosed by ITS. *See, Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-61-9(1) and 79-23-1.*

Given the confidential and proprietary nature of the Confidential Information, Cognosante gives notice to ITS and FEI Systems that it intends to seek a protective order from the Hinds County Chancery Court preventing the disclosure of its Confidential Information.

February 21, 2024  
Page 2

Pursuant to *Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-61-9(7)*, Cognosante respectfully requests that ITS immediately publish this notice on the Mississippi Procurement Portal.

Sincerely,

MOCKBEE ELLIS, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. B. Ellis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David B. Ellis

DBE/kl  
Enclosures

## Kesta Long

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**From:** Kim White <Kim.White@its.ms.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** Contracts  
**Cc:** frank.persinger@feisystems.com  
**Subject:** Project 48172 - Public Records Request - RFP 4243  
**Attachments:** PRR RFP 4243 FEI Systems.pdf; Cognosante LLC Third Party Notification.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see the attached Third Party Notification and public records request from FEI Systems regarding information related to RFP 4243. A copy of this notification will be sent to you through USPS certified mail.

The following items have been requested; **Scoring sheets for this RFP to determine the award along with the notes of the individual evaluators of the RFP. FEI Systems would also like the technical proposals, cost proposals and BAFO requests from all responders.**

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9(1) and the ITS Public Records Policy **you are hereby given notice**, that unless you file a petition seeking a protective order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9 and the ITS Public Records Policy, which includes filing the petition for protective order on or before **twenty-one days from the date of delivery of this notice as established by the United States Postal Service's records**; the information specified on the attached request **will be released** to the party requesting the information as required by law. ITS must also receive a copy of your filed petition for a protective order by the 21-day deadline.

Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9(7) requires that "any party seeking a protective order for a procurement contract awarded by state agencies shall give notice to and provide the reasons for the protective order to the party requesting the information in accordance with the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice and reasons for the protective order **must** be posted on the Mississippi procurement portal for a minimum of seven (7) days **before** filing the petition seeking the protective order in chancery court."

In accordance with ITS's Public Records Policy, you must provide ITS with **14 days'** notice of the petition for protective order, including the reasons for the petition, prior to filing your petition in Chancery Court.

Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**Kim White**  
Technology Consultant  
MS Department of Information Technology Services  
601-432-8211 | [www.its.ms.gov](http://www.its.ms.gov)

**Request Type:**

Custom Open Records Request - \$70

**RFP Code:**

4243

**Description:**

FEI Systems is requesting the scoring sheets for this RFP to determine the award along with the notes of the individual evaluators of the RFP. FEI Systems would also like the technical proposals, cost proposals and BAFO requests from all responders.

**First Name:**

Frank

**Last****Name:**

Persinger

**Company:**

FEI Systems

**Address:**

9755 Patuxent Woods Drive

**Address 2:**

Suite 300

**City:**

Columbia

**State:**

MD

**Zip:**

21046

**Phone:**

8592481132

**Fax:**

N/A

**Email:**

frank.persinger@feisystems.com

*Report generated on 2/14/2024 at 9:02 AM*



Mississippi Department of  
Information Technology Services

3771 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211-6381  
Phone: 601-432-8000  
Fax: 601-713-6380  
[www.its.ms.gov](http://www.its.ms.gov)

David C. Johnson, Executive Director

## Third Party Notification Memorandum

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**To:** Edward J. Russell, Vice President Contracts, Cognosante, LLC  
**From:** David C. Johnson  
**CC:** Frank Persinger, FEI Systems  
ITS Project File Number: 48172  
**Date:** February 15, 2024  
**Subject:** Request for Records Furnished by Third Parties Containing Trade Secrets or Confidential Commercial or Financial Information under the Mississippi Public Records Act

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**Contact Name:** Kim White, ITS Public Records Officer  
**Contact Phone Number:** 601-432-8211  
**Contact E-Mail Address:** [Kim.White@its.ms.gov](mailto:Kim.White@its.ms.gov)

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### **COPY SENT VIA EMAIL; ORIGINAL SENT VIA UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE**

ITS has received a request from a third party for copies of information you previously submitted to ITS.

**Party requesting your information:** FEI Systems, 9755 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21046

**A copy of the request is enclosed for your review.**

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9(1), "records furnished to public bodies by third parties which contain trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information shall not be subject to inspection, examination, copying or reproduction under this chapter until notice to third parties has been given, but the records shall be released no later than twenty-one (21) days from the date the third parties are given notice by the public body unless the third parties have filed in chancery court a petition seeking a protective order on or before the expiration of the twenty-one-day time period. Any party seeking the protective order shall give notice to the party requesting the information in accordance with the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure."

Further, Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9(7) also requires that "any party seeking a protective order for a procurement contract awarded by state agencies shall give notice to and provide the reasons for the protective order to the party requesting the information in accordance with the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice and reasons for the protective order **must** be posted on the Mississippi procurement portal for a minimum of seven (7) days **before** filing the petition seeking the protective order in chancery court." (Emphasis added).

In accordance with ITS's Public Records Policy, you must provide ITS with 14 days' notice of the petition for protective order, including the reasons for the petition, prior to filing your petition in

Chancery Court.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9(1) and the ITS Public Records Policy **you are hereby given notice**, that unless you file a petition seeking a protective order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-9 and the ITS Public Records Policy, which includes filing the petition for protective order on or before **twenty-one days from the date of delivery of this notice as established by the United States Postal Service's records**; the information specified on the attached request **will be released** to the party requesting the information as required by law. ITS must also receive a copy of your filed petition for a protective order by the 21-day deadline.

You may review the ITS Public Records Policy and associated guidelines adopted in compliance with this act in Section 019-010 of the ITS Procurement Handbook, available at:

<https://www.its.ms.gov/sites/default/files/ProcurementPDFs/ISS%20Procurement%20Manual.pdf>

If you do not wish to file a petition seeking a protective order to prevent the release of the requested information, please sign below and return this memo via email to: [open.records@its.ms.gov](mailto:open.records@its.ms.gov)

Your signing and returning this memo gives ITS permission to release your information prior to the above deadline.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- (1) Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 (MATA) and Confidential Information:** The following language is included in each ITS contract, within the contract articles titled "Transparency" and "Confidential Information" and generally provides:

**TRANSPARENCY** – "In accordance with the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008, § 27-104-151, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as Amended, the American Accountability and Transparency Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5), where applicable, and § 31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, where applicable, a fully executed copy of this Agreement and any subsequent amendments and change orders shall be posted to the State of Mississippi's accountability website at: <https://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/>. Prior to ITS posting the Agreement and any subsequent amendments and change orders to the website, any attached exhibits which contain trade secrets or other proprietary information and are labeled as "confidential" will be redacted by ITS. Notwithstanding the preceding, however, it is understood and agreed that pursuant to § 25-61-9(7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the contract provisions specifying the commodities purchased or the services provided; the price to be paid; and the term of this Agreement shall not be deemed a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information and shall thus not be redacted."

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** – "With the exception of any attached

exhibits which are labeled as "confidential", the parties understand and agree that this Agreement, including any amendments and/or change orders thereto, does not constitute confidential information, and may be reproduced and distributed by the State without notification to vendor. ITS will provide third party notice to vendor of any requests received by ITS for any such confidential exhibits so as to allow vendor the opportunity to protect the information by court order as outlined in ITS Public Records Procedures.

The parties understand and agree that pursuant to § 25-61-9(7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the contract provisions specifying the commodities purchased or the services provided; the price to be paid; and the term of this Agreement shall not be deemed confidential information."

As stated above, with the exception of any contract exhibits labeled as "confidential" at the time of contract execution, contracts executed between the state of Mississippi and a Contractor and any subsequent amendments and change orders shall be posted to the Internet in compliance with MATA and may be reproduced and distributed by the state without notification to vendor, and the contract provisions specifying the commodities purchased or the services provided; the price to be paid; and the term of the contract shall not be deemed a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information and shall be available for examination, copying or reproduction. ITS will, as stated in the contract provisions set forth above, provide third party notice to vendor of requests received by ITS for any contract exhibits properly labeled as "confidential", so as to allow vendor the opportunity to protect the information by court order as outlined in the ITS Public Records Policy. Contractors are directed to review the above applicable provisions within the ITS contract.

- (2) It is the responsibility of **Cognosante, LLC** to notify any sub-contractors, that may have jointly participated in submitting a response to ITS, that confidential information has been requested.

Any questions related to this notice should be directed to Kim White at 601-432-8211 or via e-mail at [open.records@its.ms.gov](mailto:open.records@its.ms.gov).

Enclosure