Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

178-72

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

*Five experimental diets containing various levels of protein and the amino acid lysine.*

1. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

*The experimental diets to be purchased will be used in pond studies to evaluate cost-effective diet formulations to complete our federal funded research project. Information obtained from the study will be used by the catfish industry to reduce feed cost and improve farm profit. The experimental diets will be made in small batches (1,500 pounds), and fresh batches will be made as needed, which do not require long-term storage to minimize nutrient loss and mold growth during the hot summer. Also, all experimental diets should be prepared by the same feed mill to ensure that the diets are made using the same processing equipment and conditions throughout the catfish production season so that it will not affect the study results.*

1. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

*Indi-Bel, Inc., Indianola, MS is the only company that can make small batches of experimental catfish diets that fits feeding studies using small experimental ponds (0.1 acre). Other feed mills make 10-ton batches and do not have the capacity for making small batches of catfish diets.*

1. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

*$1,000/ton. Making experimental diets in small batches is labor intensive.*

1. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

*The price is negotiated between the Delta Research and Extension Center and Indi-Bel, Inc.*

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:

Don Buffum, CPPO  
Director of Procurement & Contracts  
[dbuffum@procurement.msstate.edu](mailto:dbuffum@procurement.msstate.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, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU 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 MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.

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