Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

178-69

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):

* Qty 1: GUNT, WP 400, Pendulum Impact Tester, 25 Nm, w/ Data Acquisition, Safety Cage, and Test specimens
* Qty 2: GUNT, WP 140, Fatigue Testing Machine w/ Test Specimens
* Qty 1: GUNT, TM 155, Free and Forced Vibration Apparatus w/ Data Acquisition

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:
   * This same equipment was recently purchased on the Gautier campus. To ensure compatibility of all lab course materials (including virtual/distance instruction videos) between the Gautier & Starkville campuses, the exact same equipment is required on both campuses.
   * The course materials on both campuses are also required to be completely compatible and consistent for accreditation purposes.
   * This equipment was previously identified by the mechanical engineering department at Mississippi State University for the initial commissioning of the Gautier campus’s Solid Mechanics Laboratory. The equipment was selected for its build quality, precision, user friendliness, cost, safety compliance, and compatibility with departmental software (LabVIEW) already in use on both campuses.
   * Material impact testing is an essential material testing/selection concept needed to properly design a wide variety of mechanical systems used in industry. The WP 400 experimental unit is a solid-pendulum impact tester based on ISO 148-1, designed for the Charpy notched-bar impact test. The clean layout and simple operation mean the experimental sequence can be observed in all details and phases. Data acquisition is essential for students to fully explore and analyze this type of material test. While other impact testing apparatuses may be available through other vendors, GUNT’s apparatus offers distinct advantages, notably in the data acquisition software that is compatible with the Labview software currently licensed by the mechanical engineering department and utilized in the undergraduate laboratories. This equipment also meets OSHA’s safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use.
   * Material fatigue testing is an essential material testing/selection concept needed to properly design a wide variety of mechanical systems used in industry. Fatigue failure is often unexpected, sudden, and catastrophic. It is imperative that students be exposed to fatigue and the methods used to measure it. The WP 140 trainer demonstrates the basic principles of fatigue strength testing and the creation of a Wöhler diagram. The clean layout and simple operation mean the experimental sequence can be observed in all details and phases. While other fatigue testing apparatuses may be available through other vendors, GUNT’s apparatus offers distinct advantages, notably in the data acquisition software that is compatible with the Labview software currently licensed by the mechanical engineering department and utilized in the undergraduate laboratories. This equipment also meets OSHA’s safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use.
   * Forced vibrations occur in a variety of ways in engineering. While they are desirable in vibrating screens or vibrating conveyors, they are often unwanted in engines or other rotating machines. The TM 155 experimental unit clearly demonstrates the fundamentals needed to deal with free and forced vibrations. The differences between the two main types of excitation for forced vibrations can be shown on a simple vibration model. While other vibration testing apparatuses may be available through other vendors, GUNT’s apparatus offers distinct advantages, notably in the data acquisition software that is compatible with the Labview software currently licensed by the mechanical engineering department and utilized in the undergraduate laboratories. This equipment also meets OSHA’s safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use.
2. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

* USDidactic is the Exclusive Representative and Sole Source Supplier for Equipment from G.U.N.T. Gerätebau GmbH in the USA

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

* Estimated Total Cost: $65,037.51
* Amount is within the expected price range of this caliber of laboratory equipment

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:
   * GUNT is the sole manufacturer
   * USDidactic is the exclusive distributor for these products in the US.
   * All applicable discounts were explored and applied

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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