Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

178-70

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 2: Instron Model 5969 Materials Testing system, Capacity 50 kN w/tension, compression, bending, & shear accessories

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 installed 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’ Solid Mechanics Laboratory. The equipment was selected for its build quality, precision, user friendliness, cost, safety compliance, and compatibility with existing departmental service agreements.
   * Fundamental material testing, such as tension, compression, bending, and shear tests, are cornerstones of basic mechanical design. The 5960 Dual Column Tabletop Testing Systems are universal, static testing systems that perform tension and compression testing; and also perform shear, flexure, peel, tear, cyclic, and bending tests. The 5900 Series are engineered for precision, built for durability, and offer the flexibility for changing requirements. They are designed with standard and optional features that increase testing efficiency and improve the testing experience for the operator. Dual column systems are multi-purpose instruments that are commonly used for plastics, metals, rubber materials, automotive components, composites, and non-ambient temperature applications. This equipment is also compatible with existing departmental service agreements.
2. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

* Instron is the sole manufacturer and distributor for this product in the U.S.

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

* Estimated Total Cost: $99,390.00
* 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:
   * Instron is the sole manufacturer and distributor for this product in the U.S.
   * 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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