# Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

# 223-39

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.

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

Instadose+ dosimeters from Mirion Technologies. These are radiation dosimeters worn by MSU faculty, staff, and students that work with sources of ionizing radiation such as radioactive material and x-ray devices. The Instadose+ dosimeters and accompanying software allow radiation safety personnel and end users to view their radiation exposure almost instantly. State and federal regulations require MSU to provide radiation dosimetry to ionizing radiation users.

## 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:

Currently, the radiation dosimeters MSU uses are worn for a period and then returned to Mirion Technologies for analysis, who generates an exposure report to send back to MSU. Most of our dosimeters are worn for three months. There is significant time added to the analysis process of determining a user's radiation exposure due to the time it takes to collect and ship the dosimeters back to Mirion and then wait for the reports to be generated and returned. Instadose+ dosimeters can be read on-the-fly via Bluetooth, so exposure data is available on demand. Instead of waiting weeks or months for a traditional passive dosimeter to be sent back to the manufacturer and analyzed to recover exposure data, Instadose will allow us to upload the exposure data ourselves as often as we want. Instadose dosimeter badges only have to be sent back to Mirion when damaged or the battery dies – Mirion covers the cost of shipping in the instance of battery issues and replaces the dosimeter free of charge. Meanwhile, if the battery does die, the dosimeter continues to collect and store exposure data so that it is not lost. Currently, we spend a few hundred dollars a year in FedEx charges to ship our traditional dosimeters back to Mirion for analysis.

The MSU College of Veterinarian Medicine (CVM) is the largest dosimetry user on campus. DVM and VMT students currently require two badges by the end of their program, one for campus and one for off-site locations. This creates an additional administrative burden on EH&S and CVM and complicates tracking the students’ exposure history. Instadose+ dosimeters can be read by an end user via Bluetooth at any time by smartphone, computer, or an Instadose+ hotspot. This eliminates the need to assign separate dosimeters for campus and off-site locations since exposure readings can be uploaded from anywhere and are tracked in the software by date. This allows both the wearer and radiation safety staff to closely monitor radiation exposure by having near-instant exposure data. It also eliminates the need and cost to collect dosimeters and ship them back to Mirion for analysis. The Instadose+ dosimeters also can be reassigned to a new user. For instance, if a student graduates, we can get a final exposure reading from the Instadose+ dosimeter, clear the dosimeter of that user’s data once we have generated their final report, and then reassign that same dosimeter to a new user. This is not possible with our current dosimeters or any other dosimeter that MSU is aware of on the market. Currently, if a user were to receive a high radiation exposure during their three-month wear period, we would have to investigate to try to pinpoint when and where the exposure happened, which may or may not be successful. Instadose+ tracks user exposure daily, so you can see which day a high exposure occurred.

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

Mirion Technologies is our current dosimetry provider and has patented the Instadose+ platform. The technology that makes Instadose+ possible is proprietary to Mirion.

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

Instadose+ dosimeter badges retail for $25 per year per badge. This includes access to reports, use of Mirion’s AMP+ software for administrative purposes, and replacement of faulty dosimeters at no additional cost. We currently spend varying amounts on the different types of dosimeters Mirion offers that we use on campus, most of which are cheaper than the Instadose+ badges. However, when you factor in our administrative costs such as collecting and sorting badges, assigning badges, shipping costs and investigating high exposures and other costs such as lost/damaged/non-returned badge fees and fees associated with generating the reports we receive that are required by regulation, it is anticipated that by utilizing Instadose+ net savings will be realized once the system is established. EH&S estimates an annual spend of $10,000 for implementing the first tranche of Instadose+ badges. The service is billed quarterly, and the number of badges changes frequently depending on users coming and going for various reasons.

## 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:

EH&S staff has contacted other major, reputable radiation dosimetry providers to inquire on similar instant-read dosimeters and accompanying platforms. While Mirion is not the only provider of dosimetry services, they are the only provider that offers the Instadose system at a scale large enough to suit MSU’s radiation safety program. Due to the size of MSU’s radiation safety program, Mirion Technologies is the only provider that can offer an instant read solution for MSU via the Instadose platform. MSU has been a customer of Mirion Technologies since at least 1990. We have a long history of working together, and our longstanding relationship has provided MSU with preferential pricing, less than retail value.

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.