# Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

# 234-06

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):

40837 SATURO Infiltrometer. Includes carrying case, control unit, infiltrometer head, 2 collapsible water containers, tubing, 2 insertion rings with strike plate, USB cable power cord,

## 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:

Our recent $10m award for the USDA Climate Smart Partnerships project requires monitoring and verification from improved agricultural practices in MS and AR. Part of the environmental services provided by climate-smart agriculture is improved infiltration as described in our proposal. In order to quantify infiltration, infiltrometers are required. Since infiltration is a highly variable parameter, methods that reduce measurement variability are required in order to quantify small differences due to management practices. The Saturo units have the lowest variability of all infiltration methods due to the fact that the process is automated and provides a constant head of pressure (i.e., a constant head infiltrometer, as opposed to a dynamic head infiltrometer). A dynamic head changes the amount of water pressure applied to the soil surface as a function of head height, thus increasing measurement variability. A constant head removes those differences and allows for more precise measurements. In addition, the automation eliminates human error during determination of head height.

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

METER Group, Inc. This company is the only provider of automated, constant head infiltrometers.

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

One unit with shipping is estimated at $5813. We have budgeted for 2 units. The USDA has approved this expense in order to meet project deliverables.

## 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:

We have attempted to construct constant-head infiltrometers (see our pub <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG433>) but the system is prone to leaks, bubbles in the system (especially in the tubing), and human error. No other automated, constant-head infiltrometer is available on the market. I have used the Saturo systems during previous employment and found they give the best data for determination of infiltration.

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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