# Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

# SSP 223-56

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):

Bowman MudMaster. The Bowman MudMaster is a high clearance, four-wheel drive pesticide applicator. It is designed to endure adverse field conditions which are common in row crop production. The MudMaster is equipped with a Hatz 56 HP, 3-cylinder, turbo diesel engine along with tall, narrow 8.3x24 8-ply tires for performance in rugged environments. The MudMaster has a 46-inch ground clearance which allows it to spray over tall vegetation which allows for minimal crop damage. The wheel spacing can be adjusted on the MudMaster to accommodate different row spacings, which is critical in agronomic research. It will also be equipped with a 110-gallon chemical tank with quick-fill capability from the nurse trailer. Along with the 110-gallon chemical tank, the MudMaster will be equipped with a 25 ft spray boom. This will allow researchers to spray broadcast applications over field trials in efforts to improve efficiency. The MudMaster is equipped with a hydraulic centrifugal chemical pump rated at 60 GPM @ 40 PSI. It is manufactured and designed with an articulating and pivoting center hinge for increased stability. This design improves the safety and ease of use when spraying in small areas such as small research plots. Accessories to the MudMaster includes an 8-sectional, highway legal, multi-boom with electric ball valves and switchbox for spraying research plots. The multi-boom provides a safe an effective way for researchers to apply pesticides to agronomic research plots. In order to improve safety and efficiency, a buddy seat is requested to ride along with the driver of the MudMaster to operator the multi-boom switch box. Other accessories include an automatic spray controller with electric ball valves and a Matrix 430 GPS for guidance. Both accessories are necessary in order to apply the correct rates of pesticides in the correct location. In order to transport the MudMaster to grower demonstrations, a transport/nurse trailer with a 200-gallon nurse system is also requested. The transport/nurse trailer is exclusively designed to transport and refill the MudMaster sprayer. It includes quick-lock clevis standards and non-folding ramps for fast and secure tie-down.

## 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 Bowman MudMaster will provide researchers with the capability to apply pesticides in an accurate, efficient and appropriate manner. The Bowman MudMaster is unique from other options as it is a high clearance, four-wheel drive pesticide applicator that is designed to operate in adverse field conditions. When compared to full size pesticide applicators, the MudMaster is considerably less weight which makes it highly transportable and unique to small plot research. No other self-propelled sprayer is designed for small plot research like the Bowman MudMaster. Purchase of this self-propelled sprayer will enable researchers to further accomplish the goal of clientele outreach as well as improve the growth of our current research programs.

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

The name of the company selling the equipment is Bowman Manufacturing Co., Inc. Bowman Manufacturing is located in Newport, AR. There are currently no other companies that manufacture a self-propelled sprayer like the Bowman MudMaster. Bowman Manufacturing has a solid reputation for producing outstanding performing machines. Bowman Manufacturing has provided the University with several self-propelled sprayers all of which have been used to accomplish the goal of clientele outreach within the agriculture community.

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

The purchase price for this piece of equipment and accessories is $83,200.00 which would normally require a bidding process if multiple manufacturers of similar equipment were available. However, there are no other known companies that make a piece of equipment that will perform the same tasks as the Bowman MudMaster. Failure to purchase this piece of equipment will delay the growth of our research and outreach programs.

## 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 department has conducted a thorough search in order to find other self-propelled research plot sprayers. As of December 13, 2022, there are currently no other small plot sprayers that can assist MSU personal with agronomic research capabilities like the Bowman MudMaster. The Bowman Mudmaster is the only known piece of equipment that will satisfy our requirements which include being light weight, four-wheel drive, and transportable.

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.

.