

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

SS 082

The University of Mississippi (UM) anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase as a sole source shall follow the procedures outlined below.

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

Lab Products, Inc. Super Mouse 750 Ventilated Micro-Isolator Cage Rack and accessories

The need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

The requested ventilated mouse cage rack is solely compatible to the mouse racks from Lab Products Inc. currently owned for use in the University's research animal lab. All parts are uniquely interchangeable. Caging and water bottles are also specialized to the company. Per Lab Products Inc., their caging systems are designed, engineered and manufactured in their own manufacturing facilities. The K77080ARM RAIR HD Super Mouse 750TM Micro-Isolator 80 cage rack is a proprietary product manufactured and marketed solely by Lab Products, Inc. No other similar or like equipment from another vendor can provide compatibility to these type of racks. The racks are vital to the University's federally funded research projects. Using the interchangeable racks allows the University to have change-out/emergency racks which is important to the viability of the research projects. The initial purchase accommodated the research needs at the time. It wasn't until new faculty were hired, and existing faculty had increased needs, that we discerned additional racks were required. It is not possible to accurately predict research equipment needs in advance due to faculty arriving or departing, and the changing needs of current faculty based on grant/contract support and the changing nature of research projects in general.

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

Per Lab Products, Inc., their caging systems are designed, engineered and manufactured in their own manufacturing facilities. The K77080ARM RAIR HD Super Mouse 750TM Micro-Isolator 80 Cage Rack is a proprietary product manufactured and marketed solely by Lab Products, Inc. Racks from other vendors were reviewed for compatibility. After review, it was determined and verified that Lab Products, Inc. is the only company that manufactures this specific type of ventilated mouse cage rack, creating a system that is unique in compatible and interchangeable

parts. Parts among different companies are not interchangeable and would be far less efficient in managing the animal colonies required for research. More important than operational efficiency is the potential negative impact on research data that occurs when using a different make/model (i.e., vendor) of ventilated rack (example of a scientific research article demonstrating this available at the following link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0031938413003478>). Researchers (especially those such as we have here studying behavior and those with difficult-to-breed mice) require consistency of environment. Different motor noises, different air flows, different feeders, different cage size/conformation, different light levels entering cages, different plastic colors, different waterers can all effect behavior and breeding. Switching animals from one vendor's ventilated cage system to another could have very deleterious effects. The concept behind having consistent housing is eliminating as many research variables as possible which is why we need to use equipment from the same vendor. Also, from a personnel training standpoint, consistency in equipment/supplies helps preclude operational errors which would have a negative impact on the mice and thus the science.

Why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

The price is in line with other vendors of similar racks (however, NOT compatible to existing UM research mouse racks). Lab Products, Inc. was the lower quote when the rack system was first purchased. All the researchers involved in the initial batch purchase (i.e., those who required the racks) agreed to a single system and that this particular vendor would accommodate their needs.

Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:

Efforts were made by the department to attain the best price possible from Lab Products, Inc. The current quote is in line with earlier quotes attained for the original purchase with a slight increase due to the rising price of materials along with quantity purchased.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties:

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the item(s) above should not be certified as a sole source should provide information in the following format for UM to use in determining whether or not to proceed with awarding the Sole Source purchase.

1.1 Interested Party Information

1.1.1 Contact Name, Phone Number, Address and email address

1.1.2 Company Website URL, if applicable

1.2 Objection to Sole Source Certification

1.2.1 Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole

Source certification using the criteria listed above.

1.2.2 A statement regarding the Interested Party's capabilities as related to this Sole Source Certification Request.

1.3 Comments will be accepted at any time prior to Friday, March 30, 2018 at 3:00 pm (Central Time) to Katherine Jones at kajones4@olemiss.edu (with Cc: to purchase@olemiss.edu) at The University of Mississippi Procurement Services Department, 164 Jeanette Phillips Drive, PO Box 1848, University, Mississippi 38677. Responses may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, overnight delivery, or e-mail. The envelope or email should reference the sole source number. UM WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach UM on time. Interested Parties may contact Katherine Jones to verify the receipt of their Responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, UM determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then UM will withdraw the sole source certification and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If UM determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then UM will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board for approval to purchase.