

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

SS 118

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):

Bruker/JPK NanoTracker2

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:

An optical trapping system is a specialized instrument that is required for the research of single protein biomechanics, the main focus of the Reinemann lab. The instrument, also equipped with differential interference contrast (DIC) and epifluorescence imaging, is necessary for imaging the cellular components studied. The instrument has been proven to precisely measure single molecule mechanics, including displacements on the nanometer scale and forces below 0.1 piconewtons. This ultra-stability is absolutely necessary for measuring the nature of single protein molecules. The instrument is also specifically compatible with other Bruker/JPK products, such as specific optics and microscope stages. We would like to acquire the Bruker/JPK NanoTracker2 optical trapping system. As the single molecule biophysics field is highly specialized, there are only three companies in the world that offer commercial optical trapping systems: Bruker/JPK, ThorLabs, and Lumicks. The Bruker/JPK system is the only one capable of simultaneous laser trapping with DIC and fluorescence imaging. Both DIC and fluorescence imaging are required to visualize, characterize, and perform experiments using cytoskeletal filaments, such as microtubules, that are the basis of study in the lab. The Bruker/JPK system is also the only commercial optical trapping system optimized for surface-based assays and has proven to be able to measure the ultra-fine stepping of the molecular motors, the other main basis of study in the lab. ThorLabs does not offer DIC imaging with their system, and they specifically said that they could not guarantee the system to be able to measure the nanometer-sized steps of molecular motors. The Lumicks system is optimized for suspended solution assays that utilizes two optical traps, not surface-based assays with a single trap. They also do not offer DIC imaging. The only fluorescence imaging they offer is super-resolution fluorescence imaging. This is extremely sophisticated, outside the scope of the lab's research and expertise, and makes the system unaffordable for the lab. The lab's PI also

personally tested each of the systems, and the Bruker/JPK system was the only one that had the capabilities to do her specific research.

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

The system as described in the quote can only be purchased by the University of Mississippi directly from Bruker. Bruker is the sole manufacturer of JPK NanoTracker 2 force sensing optical tweezers system, and this product can only be purchased directly from Bruker. There are no resellers or distributors for this product.

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

A deeply discounted deal has been secured for the purchase of the Bruker/JPK NanoTracker2 optical trapping system. With customization and an academic discount so that the PI could fit the instrument into her limited budget, the quoted price is now about half of the initial cost. This price is reasonable as the non-guaranteed ThorLabs system is similarly priced, and the Lumicks system is close to triple the cost, neither of which meet the PI's research needs.

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

The PI and department began discussing the acquisition of the Bruker/JPK optical trapping system as soon as the PI negotiated her contract with the University. In learning that the initial system was unaffordable for the lab's budget, the sales representative customized the instrument so that it could reach the PI's research needs and budget. After rounds of negotiation, a quote with nearly 50% off the initial price was obtained for an all-inclusive, turn-key solution (delivery, installation, and training).

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 Monday, November 19, 2018 at 10:00 am (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.