

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

SS 132

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):

Agilent Technologies 7250 Quadrapole/Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (GC/Q-TOF MS)

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:

Researchers at NCNPR require a wide variety of sophisticated instrumentation in order to investigate complex research questions involving natural products and dietary supplements. Many types of mass spectrometers (MS) are available, each having both advantages and compromises regarding sensitivity, mass accuracy, and selectivity. The Q-TOF type of mass spectrometer offers a balance of these three parameters most suitable for NCNPR applications requiring structure elucidation of target compounds in complex mixtures. Although several companies offer Q-TOF instruments, the Agilent 7250 GC/Q-TOF system is the only system available that couples a Q-TOF MS with a Gas Chromatograph (GC). All other Q-TOF MS systems use Liquid Chromatographs (LC) for separation of mixtures prior to mass analysis. Although the LC/Q-TOF systems that NCNPR currently operate are suitable for separating non-volatile, thermally fragile compounds, the Agilent 7250 GC/Q-TOF system allows for analysis of volatile, thermally stable compounds. NCNPR's Agilent GC will be coupled to this Q-TOF MS; therefore the Q-TOF MS must be compatible. The Agilent 7250 demonstration unit to be purchased has been thoroughly tested by NCNPR researchers and found to be suitable for their work.

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

The Agilent Technologies 7250 GC/Q-TOF MS system is the only system available that couples a Q-TOF MS with a Gas Chromatograph (GC). Much of the research at NCNPR involves FDA's concerns for the quality of dietary supplement products in the U.S. Because NCNPR works closely with many companies involved in dietary supplement research, we are aware of all technologies used in this industry worldwide. No other company offers a GC/Q-TOF mass spectrometer system; all others are LC/Q-TOF systems.

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

The purchase price reflects a 50% discount due to the system being a demonstration unit.

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

Best possible pricing for this instrument can be directly related to the many years of effort by NCNPR to establish itself as a worldwide leader in natural products and dietary supplement research. NCNPR develops and publishes validated analytical methods using cutting edge technology, thus, vendors are amiable with pricing.

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, February 15, 2019 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.