

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

SS 304

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):

BioDot, Inc. AD1520 Aspirate/Dispense Platform, equipped with a BioJet Elite dispense head

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:

We require an aspirate/dispense platform is table-top robotic system, about the size of a large microwave oven, that can precisely position a syringe at specified coordinates on a surface and dispense very small (nanoliter) liquid volumes at that position. We require an aspirate/dispense system for an active project in our lab to dispense <35 nanoliters of liquid drug compound into minute (0.4 mm x 0.4 mm x 0.2 mm) cavities on a surface. BioDot, Inc. is the only company that makes an aspirate/dispense platform that can dispense droplets of ~1 nL in volume and accommodate solution viscosities of up to 30 centiPoise (cP). The ability to dispense single 1 nL droplets is key for our application because it allows us to precisely fill the reservoirs of our device without over-filling and wasting precious drug, or under-filling and failing to achieve full loading density. The ability to handle viscosities up to 30 cP is also critical for our application because we work with a range of liquid drug compounds and polymer solutions that possess a wide variety of viscosities. The AD1520 system will ensure that we can dispense the solutions that we need to dispense in the small volumes that our application demands. Lastly, the BioDot AD1520 system is made for small-scale production and can print liquid volumes on small-footprint substrates. We do not have the resources or the need to purchase a production-level system at this time. There are large-scale systems available, or systems that dispense droplets in ranges outside of our required specification. However, these systems do not meet the needs of our research project because they do not possess the capabilities that we require: a 1 nL droplet volume, 30 cP viscosity, and small-footprint substrates.

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

BioDot, Inc., only sells direct. They do not sell their products through vendors. Significant time was spent investigating competing technologies on the internet. There are only a few companies in the world that make aspirate/dispense systems, and of those companies only BioDot makes an instrument that meets our specific project research needs.

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

The AD1520 system is composed of a positioning robot, precision ultrasonic dispensing syringe, and cameras for positional feedback, in addition to installation and training. The cost of the AD1520 system is not much more than the cost of other systems that are just a positioning robot.

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

The department personnel engaged in discussions with the sales representative, Debbie Bowers, which resulted in us getting a 5% academic discount.

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 Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 am (Central Time) to Frank Kemp at fbkemp@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 Frank Kemp 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.