Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

189-19

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.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

Merlin Flight Simulation Group: MP-500 flight simulator.

1. 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 simulator will provide a unique opportunity to instruct students in the science of flight dynamics and control. The students will be able to input their own aircraft design, modify an existing aircraft, or use an existing aircraft to experience the mechanics of flight by flying the aircraft in the simulator. This is unique amongst flight simulator products in the flexibility and level at which the design of the flight vehicle being simulated can be manipulated. Typical flight simulators have a fixed list of vehicles that can be simulated. Some simulations allow coupling of new designs, but only via additional programming and combining capabilities from different vendors. The Merlin flight simulator has an integrated performance prediction and simulation capability that can be integrated into curriculum on aircraft performance, stability and control, and aircraft design in a straightforward manner and without lengthy training or education on the simulation system itself. The simulator tremendously enhances the educational experience by giving immediate feedback to students on impact of design changes and parameter variations, and by allowing rapid validation of predicted aircraft behavior.

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

Merlin Flight Simulation Group, Chris Neal. They sell the only education, reconfigurable flight simulator.

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

$19,000 USD. This is a discounted cost from the normal $25,000 USD.

1. 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:

We have found that there are no other vendors that provide an integrated engineering flight simulator for education and research purposes other than Merlin Flight Simulation. The unique integrated performance, stability, and control software allows this product to be easily integrated into classroom education without extensive training of users. This capability is not available from any other source.

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.

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