Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

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):

Item: Aerobic Digester

Company: Armfield Inc.

Item Code: W11-B

Description: The proposed aerobic digester is a benchtop unit designed to study the activated sludge process. Wastewater is fed to the reactor vessel where air is supplied at a measured rate by a small compressor. The liquid level in the reactor is maintained at a constant volume of between five and ten liters by an adjustable overflow device connected to an outer annular chamber of the vessel. The reactor temperature is maintained by a three‐term controller that varies power to an immersion heater within the vessel. The reactor apparatus includes dissolved oxygen and pH probes. The data acquisition is continuous and there is a gas exhaust port suitable for sampling the gases and performing subsequent air quality and material balance analyses.

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 system will facilitate discussions related to processes and operations used in wastewater reclamation. They can evaluate the efficiency of the activated sludge process while varying temperature and aeration conditions. This system will allow undergraduates students to perform continuous activated sludge process, stoichiometry and kinetics of biological processes, gas and liquid mass transfer, and residence time distributions at our laboratories. The digester offered by Armfield Inc. is a Benchtop equipment, opposite to other companies who offer large-scale digesters which are not appropriate for a classroom setting.

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

Armfield Inc. is the exclusive provider of this equipment for the state of Mississippi.

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

Being a benchtop model, there will be little costs for installation and it is very transportable to the new building. The total estimated cost is $20,579.00 (See quotation attached)

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:

Online search of similar equipment offered by other companies were done without any positive results. Armfield was the only company who offer an equipment that fits the necessities by offering a benchtop equipment.

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.

.