# Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

# 223-36

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.

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

4 Small Cow Model sets. Comes in a 5-pack. Product number 42010105.

## 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:

Part of the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Science in grades 6-12 specifies that students learn about the different parts (anatomy and physiology) of an animal. The cow models fulfill this need. They are able to be dissected and put back together so the students can learn the specific anatomy and physiology components of the livestock species. Further, this is a unique product because it is the only small scale dissectible cow model that we have been able to find that aligns with the ACRE content—which is agriculture focused, specifically on livestock species. The teachers saw a larger model from a Co-PI this past summer at our summer institute and were very impressed with it and talked about how useful it would be in their own classrooms to provide a hands on experience for the students in their classes. Because of the size of the large scale item, we searched for a smaller sized item for the teachers that accomplished the same goal of providing that hands-on instruction for their students. We found that in the small cow models from Reality Works.

The USDA ACRE grant which provides additional training for MSU middle and high school science teachers provides for those twenty (20) teachers to receive teaching/instruction materials for future use in the classroom.

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

The Reality Works product is the only one that we have been able to find that has the detail needed for the agriculture and science teachers to provide hands on learning experiences with their students so they can learn more about the anatomical systems of the cow.

Realityworks, 2709 Mondovi Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701 is the only company that produces this type of cow model, with the detail needed, for science teachers to provide hands on examples of multiple anatomical systems of the cow.

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

The large scale cow model from Reality Works, which is what the teachers saw this summer, is $2,149 per cow. This small cow model comes in a pack of 5 for $3,599 which is $719.80 per cow model. This package also includes access to curriculum for the teachers to implement with their students. Therefore, per cow, this is a reasonable cost compared to the large cow model.

Quote # 127007, good through 10/31/2022, provides four (4) Small cow model sets of 5 each for $14,396.00, with $436.36 in shipping, for a total of $14,832.36.

## 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:

The Grant PI spent hours searching for similar items online and also consulted another Co-PI on the grant who has purchased the large cow model for use in his ADS Anatomy and Physiology class to see if there is anything similar out there/comparable. Nothing was found. Further, two office personnel spent hours searching as well and found nothing. Our MSU purchasing agent also contacted other MSU departments, including the Vet School, searching for previous orders of similar products, none of which were what was needed to fulfill the goal of the grant.

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.**