# Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

# 223-35

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):

ECO-Triplet-BBFL2-base (700,CHL,CDOM)(100,50,375). This is a base model ECO. It measures Turbidity at 700 with a range of 0-100 NTU, CHL 0-50 ug/L, and CDOM 0-375 ppb. It includes memory but no shutter. Requires external power. Rated to 600m. CABLE, ECO TO 16PLUSV2/19PLUSV2 SERIAL /33622

## 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:

We have a SBE 19PLUSV2 CTD instrument manufactured by SeaBird Electronics, Inc., Bellevue, WA, which is used to measure profiles of conductivity, temperature, depth, dissolved oxygen, pH, and ORP of the water column. This ECO-Triplet will be integrated to that instrument, so that we can measure the concentrations of chlorophyll, CDOM, and turbidity simultaneously.

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

SeaBird Electronics, Inc., Bellevue, WA is the only company that makes these ECO-Triplets. Since our CTD instrument is from the same company, if we purchase the ECO-Triplet from Seabird Scientific, it will be compatible and could be easily integrated to the CTD system.

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

### $12,031.75. We have purchased three ECO-triplets from SeaBird Scientific previously and they costed similar to this amount. They are the best instruments for measurement of these parameters and widely popular**.**

## 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:

There was another company called Hobilabs Inc. that made these types of instruments. Upon contacting that company, a reply was received that in preparation for the owner’s eventual retirement, he discontinued production of any new instruments. The website mentions that HOBI Labs, Inc. ceased operations in 2014. There is no other company that makes these types of instruments that will be compatible to be integrated to a Seabird CTD system.

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.