Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

178-64

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):

* Qty: 50
* GUNT, TZ 300, Assembly of lever press: The TZ 300 assembly kit is an interdisciplinary and practical project. In addition to the primary learning area of “engineering drawing”, it is also possible to deal with the topics of machine elements, assembly processes and in particular production engineering.

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:

* This item is to be used in Mississippi State University’s Mechanical Engineering Modeling & Manufacturing course. This course is dedicated to teaching basic engineering measurements, computer aided 3D modeling, technical engineering drawings, machine assemblies, and manufacturing processes. This item allows for coursework to connect all of these topics into a single project. Furthermore, the precision of this item’s machining is required to ensure a consistency across multiple lab sessions, student submissions, and expected academic outcomes. Finally, after an exhaustive search the mechanical engineering department is simply unable to identify any equivalent competing product.

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

* USDidactic is the Exclusive Representative and Sole Source Supplier for Equipment from G.U.N.T. Gerätebau GmbH in the USA

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

* Estimated Total Cost: $60,058.42, Qty: 50
* This is an academically purpose built product designed for interdisciplinary engineering practices including technical part drawings, technical assembly drawings, measurements, machine assembly, & manufacturing processes. This is a precisely machined piece of equipment to ensure consistent measurements across all aspects of the assembly and its parts. This level of precision does significantly increase production costs and is also necessary for the intended use of this product.

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:

* The department has exhausted much effort in attempts to find a competing vendor and product. To the department’s knowledge there is no equivalent competing product available.
* To the vendor’s knowledge there is no equivalent competing product available.
* GUNT is the sole manufacturer
* USDidactic is the exclusive distributor for these products in the US.
* All applicable discounts were explored and applied

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.