

USM SSP 24_021 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase of migrating our Thermal Deposition System.

http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Bid

RFx: 3150005492

Comments/objections will be received as required per Section 31-7-13 (C) of the Mississippi Code until 8:00 a.m. (Central Time) on March 12, 2024.

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:

Jacob Cochran

Interim Director of Procurement & Contracts 118 College Dr. Box 5003 Hattiesburg, MS 39406

bids@usm.edu

Phone: 601-266-4131

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection USM SSP 24_021"

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, USM determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then USM 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 USM determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then USM will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. USM will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.

Run Dates: 2/22, 2/29

The University of Southern Mississippi
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
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The University of Southern Mississippi anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Description of the commodity that USM is seeking to procure:

The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Polymer Science and Engineering is planning to acquire an Angstrom Engineering thermal deposition system to facilitate routine device fabrication for the ongoing projects at the Gu research group and the Center for Molecular Optoelectronics and Devices. The specific model we aim to acquire is the NEXDEP physical vapor deposition platform. With a large 400mm x 400mm baseplate, the Nexdep physical vapor deposition platform have three thermal sources, a wide variety of PVD processes, while achieve ultra-high vacuum (UHV).

2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:

This intended purchase is in line with our previous order to Angstrom engineering technology made in 2018. Our current facilities include a sophisticated system featuring four thermal evaporation sources, a 7-pocket e-beam evaporator, and a dual-head magnetic sputtering tool. The software and hardware we already use are designed to work with the new system we intend to purchase. The AERES operating software, exclusive to Angstrom's PVD systems, provides extensive customization for automation, deposition recipes, and crucible options, meeting the diverse needs of our School's users. Ensuring compatibility with our existing physical vapor deposition (PVD) system is crucial, as it supports over 10 users, including students, staff, and faculty, in both educational and research activities. Angstrom Engineering Corporation is the sole provider of PVD equipment that is directly compatible with our current setup, allowing for seamless integration. This compatibility is vital for efficient user workflow between instruments and obviates the need for extensive and costly training sessions required for operating non-compatible systems.

3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:

Angstrom engineering is the only company that meet our need. It is only system that compatible with the existing investment. And both tools can share both part and maintenance cost to cut down during the long term operation.

4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

The University has concluded that buying from this source is financially feasible supported by research grant. Additionally, similar system was acquired by Jackson State University and approved Mississippi IHL last year. Extensive negotiation has been down to bring the price in line with other systems in the national.

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5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:

Other vendors were researched but none were found that could meet the needs for software and hardware compatibility with existing and currently in-use instrumentation.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1st scheduled	
2nd scheduled	

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Interim Director of Procurement & Contracts

Jacob.Cochran@usm.edu

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