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Subject: Explanation and Justification for Sole Source Supplier of Viking Buoy Spare Parts

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of MTE Instruments to address the recent purchase and shipment of spare parts for the Viking Buoy, which, to our understanding, is currently held at customs awaiting further clarification.

First and foremost, I would like to emphasize that MTE Instruments is the unique supplier of the Viking Buoy, a sophisticated marine equipment designed to perform under specific and challenging conditions. This uniqueness extends to the spare parts required for maintenance and upgrades of the system.

The extra spare parts ordered by your institution were not only sourced directly from us but also underwent specific reconfigurations, adaptations, and modifications to ensure their compatibility and optimal performance with your existing Viking Buoy setup. This process is critical, as generic parts or those not specifically tailored by MTE Instruments may not meet the stringent requirements necessary for the equipment to function as intended, potentially compromising its reliability and the accuracy of the data collected.

Our role as the sole source supplier for these components is grounded in our comprehensive understanding of the Viking Buoy's technical specifications, operational needs, and the complex environment in which it operates. This expertise is not readily available in the market, making our supplied parts indispensable for the proper maintenance and enhancement of the Viking Buoy.

The necessity for these parts to be modified before installation is twofold: to ensure seamless integration with the existing system and to maintain the integrity and reliability of the Viking Buoy's performance. These modifications are undertaken by our specialized team of engineers who have an in-depth understanding of the system, further reinforcing the rationale behind MTE Instruments' status as the sole source supplier.

We understand the importance of adhering to procurement policies and the need for due diligence in such matters. To facilitate the resolution of the current situation and expedite the clearance of the shipped parts, we are prepared to provide any additional documentation or information required by your buying department or the customs authorities.

In closing, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Our team at MTE Instruments is committed to supporting The University of Southern Mississippi in ensuring that your Viking Buoy continues to operate efficiently and effectively. Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions or require further clarification.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued trust in MTE Instruments.

Francois Levesque

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Francois Levesque', with a stylized, flowing script.

Vice-President

MTE Instruments