Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

167-57

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):

Optomec Dual Powder Feeder Cart and Installation package

The system includes two powder feeders mounted on a standalone cart with individual RPM control and a program for custom blending of materials. This equipment is specifically designed to interface with the Optomec LENS series of direct laser deposition additive manufacturing systems. The installation package includes shipping, installation and setup of the cart, basic training, and travel expenses for 1-2 days for an Optomec technician.

1. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

The Dual Powder Feeder Cart is an upgrade to our directed laser deposition system at CAVS. The cart is needed to provide two powder inputs to the laser to replace our current one powder input system. The cart is a standalone system that is built specifically to interface with our current equipment. Only one manufacturer is producing this equipment because it must be compatible with the proprietary Optomec software installed on our system. The dual powder feeder cart is needed to support currently funded work at CAVS that is sponsored by the Army Research Lab. The dual powder feeder cart enables blending of powders to produce novel alloys and functionally graded materials which is a focus of research in the additive manufacturing area.

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

Optomec 3911 Singer N.E.

Albuquerque, NM 87109

Phone: (505) 761-8250

Web: http://www.optomec.com

Optomec is the original manufacturer of our LENS 750 and is the only company making the system upgrades that are compatible with our equipment. Optomec is the only source for this type of equipment because of proprietary software and interfaces on our current equipment.

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

The estimated cost is $49,680. The dual powder feeder cart list price is $49,000 and the installation and training is $5,000. Optomec included a substantial discount of $4,320. Other methods of upgrading the system would require more in depth changes to the equipment included extended down time on the system and the individual components would be expected to cost significantly more.

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:

We have discussed the upgrade with the manufacturing of the current equipment on multiple occasions to determine the best method of upgrading to improve the functionality of our equipment. This powder feeder cart is the most cost effective system. We have negotiated a discount for the equipment beyond the standard academic discount.

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.

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