

Delta State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase SSP15-1

Delta 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):

Bowen Technovation AstroFXAudio 5.1 Standard Systems 9m audio system for use with the Digistar 5 Digital Planetarium System from Evans & Sutherland

2. 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 Delta State University Planetarium was founded in 1976 at the time that Eleanor Boyd Walters Hall was constructed, and it was dedicated on June 24, 1980 as The Roy Lee Wiley Planetarium. It consisted of a standard analog projector, of the star ball variety, manufactured by Spitz Space Systems, Inc. The Planetarium is housed under a 30-foot dome with a seating capacity of 60 people. The star ball, located in the center of the dome area, projected 2,400 stars. The brightness and color of each individual star exactly matched at the time its counterpart in the night sky. The stars could be rotated 360 degrees in latitude and heading in order to project the star field from any place on earth at any time of the year.

Since its opening, the Planetarium has been used for teaching university astronomy classes and for special presentations for schools and the general public. Recently, a Title III grant awarded to Delta State was used to replace the original star ball projector with a modern digital projection system (Digistar 5) manufactured by Evans and Sutherland. This purchase required a single source letter.

At the time of the purchase of the Digistar 5, an audio system was not purchased for the new Planetarium. After evaluating the market and our needs, we are now seeking a single source purchase of the Bowen Technovation AstroFXAudio 5.1 Standard Systems 9m audio system.

- Bowen Technovation's AstroFXAudio is the only audio system licensed and co-engineered with Evans and Sutherlands Digistar systems to be a fully compatible with the Digistar 5 projection system.
- Bowen Technovation's AstroFXAudio allows for bidirectional systems control.
- Bowen Technovation's AstroFXAudio enables expandability that will allow for the integration of the lighting system into the presentation at a later date.

- Delta States staffing profile dictates that most presentations in the Planetarium be conducted by a single Operator/Presenter rather than the Presenter/Production Staff use by larger facilities.
- The compatibility of the AstroFXAudio system with Digistar 5 projection system allows for both to be controlled by a single Operator/Presenter via the Evans and Sutherland provided iPad.
- Other systems, without the level of integration provided by AstroFXAudio, would require a second person to manipulated sound during a presentation.
- Lastly, Bowen Technovation provides hands-on training for all of their systems.

The Astronomy course, PHY 205, is consistently in the top five laboratory science courses in terms of enrollment. To facilitate student learning, sufficient and upgraded science instrumentation and advanced technology are needed. The university is committed to creating a modern digital theater experience for current students and outreach to the public, and it supports the purchase of the Bowen Technovation audio system.

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

Bowen Technovation
 Jeff Bowen
 7999 East 88th Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46256
jeffb@bowentechnovation.com
 Phone (317) 863-0525
 Fax (317) 863-0531

Bowen Technovation's AstroFXAudio is the only audio system licensed and co-engineered with Evans and Sutherlands Digistar systems to be fully compatible with the Digistar 5 projection system. It is also the only audio control system that provides bidirectional control through our existing Digistar 5 planetarium control system.

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

\$48,475.00

The AstroFXAudio Standard Digital 5.1 Surround Sound System is a large software-driven professional grade audio system produced solely for the Evans and Sutherland planetarium projection system.

5. 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:

After a thorough search of the small market of companies that produce audio systems for planetariums, it was determined that this system is the only system which is software driven and compatible with the Evans and Sutherland projection system. There are no other companies with comparable products in the extremely small niche market of audio systems for E & S projectors.

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:

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