Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

167-73

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):

TGW-4677-4 GPS/Iridium system with full cast for brown bear

TGW-4677-4 GPS/Iridium system for elk

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:

These are the exact GPS collar types use by the Alaska Department of Fish for this same project during the last 4 years. There are currently collars on both species in the field and these collars are intended to be purchased to augment the existing samples. Each company has unique and dedicated servers and associated protocols for Iridium-based data acquisition that are not transferable between or among companies. In addition, field-based uploading of location data requires computers that are specifically developed based on proprietary firmware that cannot be used with GPS collars from other manufacturers. Also, there is great need to maintain the same accuracy of location data which varies among collar types which would jeopardize later analyses, particularly related to development of energetic maps and resource selection function models. Finally, Telonics incorporates QFP-GPS technologies which reduces GPS acquisition time and extends GPS collar life without sacrificing accuracy.

The primary collar electronic components are contained within metal canisters and set in an epoxy-resin material that ensures the units are entirely waterproof. This is of high importance to ensure that the units are not damaged. In particular, brown bears spend substantial time foraging for salmon in rivers and streams, with collars frequently immersed for long periods of time. Also, these collars are not susceptible to the bite force of brown bears. We have had the collars of other companies damaged by black bears, much smaller than brown bears, rendering the collars non-functional with associated loss of large amounts of data.

The State of Alaska has provided Mississippi State University with ~$1,000,000 in total project funding to conduct this research. This research relies entirely on the amount, quality, and integrity of data obtained from these GPS collars. To use a product that will reduce these data attributes is not considered a prudent option.

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

Telonics, Inc.

932 E. Impala Avenue

Mesa, AZ, 85204-6699 USA

Tel: 480-892-4444 FAX: 480-892-9139

Website: http://www.telonics.com/index.php

Telonics, like all other wildlife GPS telemetry companies, are not distributors and sell only their own products. The products of each company are unique and specific; though there are other companies that make GPS-type collars purportedly suitable for elk and brown bear, there are no other companies that make this product.

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

Estimated total cost is ~$85,000 for the 40 elk collars and ~$85,000 for the 40 brown bear collars. In addition to being the only source for materials compatible to those already in use on the project, Telonics products reduce the time necessary to capture GPS data and the company has the needed materials available. This is an externally sponsored project and must be conducted subject to the sponsor’s timeline. In order to meet the research goals and provide reports and other deliverables, we must obtain materials that will suit our research needs and expedite data collection and deploy them to the field as soon as possible.

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:

As outlined above, specific materials requirements of ongoing project, field and species endurance, and technological compatibility require use of Telonics products. Telonics is a private, wildlife GPS telemetry manufacturer, not a distributor, and sells only their own products, nor do they distribute their products through third party marketers. Thus, Telonics is the sole source to acquire new Telonics products.   
  
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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