Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

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):

Discovery Refrigerated Cooling System-RCS90 (120VAC/60Hz): The RCS90 is a two-stage cascade vapor compression refrigeration system which permits convenient programmed or ballistic cooling in DSC/MDSC operation over the temperature range from -90°C to 550°C. The RSC90 is compatible with all Discover DSC’s, Q2000, Q200, Q20, AutoQ20, Q1000, Q100 and Q10 DSC modules, respectively. We have the Q20 DSC instrument.

RCS Gas Dryer: Molecular sieve cartridge dryer for removal of trace moisture in purge gasses; provides dry gas to -90°C dew point. The RCS gas dryer can also be used in conjunction with the LNCS gas dryer to extend the life of the LNCS dryer cartridge.

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

It is a -90°C cooler that helps regulate the cooling cycle on the DSC to obtain higher quality data and allows the DSC cycle to reach much lower temperatures at a constant rate. This device is made to specifically bolt into our existing Q20 DSC to prevent leaks and temperature fluctuations. This unit will allow us to see lower glass transition and melting temperatures for polymers and other materials.

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

TA Instruments is the company that sold us our Q20 DSC and they are the only company that makes accessories for the Q20 instrument. Presently, they have no subsidiaries that they sell components through, so the only way to purchase this item(s) is to go directly through TA Instruments.

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

Estimated cost will be $13.445.00.

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 searched several DSC supply companies (like DSC Consumables & Thermal Support) as well as some larger companies that occasionally sell instruments (like VWR, Fisher Scientific and Sigma Aldrich). None of them sell accessories for the Q20 DSC; they generally sell small consumable items like lids and pans for the DSC.

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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