

Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase  
SSP 156-12

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):

Imagenex model 881A digital multi-frequency imaging sonar with 10° transducer tilt angle. The item is a field deployable oceanographic instrument that collects time-lapse acoustic imagery of the seafloor in order to record sediment transport processes and bedform evolution.

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 imaging sonar will be used to observe and monitor sediment dynamics in Mississippi's coastal waters in support of an established research program in the fields of coastal fluid dynamics, bedform evolution, and contaminant transport. The Imagenex model 881A digital multi-frequency imaging sonar is the only commercially available imaging sonar with a transducer head tilted relative to the axis of rotation, which is necessary to acquire seafloor imagery suitable for sediment dynamics research.

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

Imagenex Technology Corporation. The Imagenex model 881A digital multi-frequency imaging sonar is the only commercially available imaging sonar with a transducer head tilted relative to the axis of rotation, which is necessary to acquire seafloor imagery suitable for sediment dynamics research. Imagenex Technology Corporation is the sole manufacturer and distributor of the model 881A digital multi-frequency imaging sonar.

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

The amount, \$9538.31 USD, is very low compared to other research grade acoustic instrumentation designed for marine deployment.

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:

Consultation with disciplinary colleagues and a thorough review of available products on the market from sonar manufacturers indicates that and that no other commercially available instrument is suitable to meet the stated research requirements. The manufacturer was engaged to determine the lowest price point for the instrument and 5% "educational institution" discount was secured.

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.