

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

SS 010

The University of Mississippi (UM) anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase as a sole source shall follow the procedures outlined below.

Commodity or commodities to be purchased (manufacturer, model, description):

Rhoades Car GoBoy x2 with motor and canopy

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:

Our compost program, which began in 2013 and served only the Residential College, is thriving and growing at a tremendous rate. In 2014, the program expanded to Rebel Market, Ole Miss Dining, and Freshii. This year sees yet another expansion to The Grill at 1810, Einstein Bros Bagels, and Starbucks. During the 2014-2015 year, the UM Compost team—a group of undergraduate interns—composted over 30,000 pounds of pre-consumer food waste.

To accommodate our growing success, the UM Compost team needs an affordable, reliable means of transport for both the interns and the food waste they transport. On any given week of pickups, our interns transport between one and two thousand pounds of pre-consumer food waste to bring to our compost site behind the Medicinal Plant Garden. Currently, the interns use a truck donated to our office to complete this task. While sufficient for occasional use, this truck is not in any condition to further support daily pick-ups of weighty (300 lbs. or more) compost. It requires frequent repair and cannot be relied on indefinitely.

The Rhoades Car GoBoy x2 is a four-wheeled, electric motor assisted bicycle with dual seating and the capacity to carry a loaded trailer. This vehicle is a safe, resource-saving transportation option that serves the unique needs of our compost program. While there are other companies that manufacture four-wheeled bicycles, these bicycles are not built for carrying heavy loads. Rhoades Car offers the following adaptations for the purpose of fitting its bicycles for work:

Electric assist motor (for hills and unusually heavy loads)
Dual seating, for additional pedal assistance
Weather panels, as pick-ups are made on a daily basis in all weather
Kevlar tire liners and thornproof tubes
Fenders
Dual disc brakes for durability and reduced maintenance costs
Chain guard

The Rhoades Car is the only vehicle of its kind in that it is a four-wheeled bicycle that can be fit for work purposes—not recreational. It is lower maintenance than a car, yet it can deliver the same capacity for work. Purchasing a Rhoades Car is the most efficient use of our office’s resources to continue and support the success of our compost program.

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

Rhoades Car is the sole manufacturer of this type of bike (a four-wheeled, two-person bicycle with motorized and other adaptations to carry heavy loads of 300 lbs. or more) within the United States. There are other companies that manufacture something similar, but they are only suited for recreational purposes. These companies do not provide the adaptations that make the four-wheeled bicycle option a safe option for work use. Also, they do not offer an option for pre-delivery assembly. We run into similar problems with companies outside of the United States, where the product provided is somewhat similar but not the same and not of the caliber necessary to serve the needs of this project.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties:

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the item(s) above should not be certified as a sole source should provide information in the following format for UM to use in determining whether or not to proceed with awarding the Sole Source purchase.

1.1 Interested Party Information

1.1.1 Contact Name, Phone Number, Address and email address

1.1.2 Company Website URL, if applicable

1.2 Objection to Sole Source Certification

1.2.1 Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification using the criteria listed above.

1.2.2 A statement regarding the Interested Party's capabilities as related to this Sole Source Certification Request.

- 1.3 **Comments will be accepted at any time prior to Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 3:00 pm (Central Time) to Katherine Jones at kajones4@olemiss.edu (with Cc: to purchase@olemiss.edu) at The University of Mississippi Procurement Services Department, 164 Jeanette Phillips Drive, PO Box 1848, University, Mississippi 38677. Responses may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, overnight delivery, or e-mail. The envelope or email should reference the sole source number. UM WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach UM on time. Interested Parties may contact Katherine Jones to verify the receipt of their Responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.**

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, UM determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then UM will withdraw the sole source certification and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If UM determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then UM will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board for approval to purchase.