

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**RFx: 3150000145**  
**SSP 16-003**

[http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract\\_bid\\_search/Bid](http://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Bid)

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

1. Description of the commodity that USM is seeking to procure:

**The University of Southern Mississippi is requesting purchase of a TA Instruments Discovery Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) / Mass Spectrometry (MS) equipment that provides linear heating rates exceeding 500°C with ballistic heating rates of 1600°C/min with a maximum temperature of 1200°C which are required for the US Army Natick Contracting Division award pursuant with the “Warfighter Helmet Pneumatic Cushioning Project.”**

2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:

**The Discovery TGA/MS system provides linear heating rates exceeding 500°C with ballistic heating rates of 1600°C/min with a maximum temperature of 1200°C which are required for deliverables in our U.S. Army project.**

**These thermal rates are required to measure kinetic degradation rates of the materials we are developing. The other vendors who manufacture TGA/MS equipment are only able to provide heating rates up to 200°C/min with maximum**

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temperature of 1000°C which is testimony to the superior technical capabilities of TA Instruments.

Additionally, it is well known that TGA/MS thermal accuracy “drifts” at high rates. The Discovery TGA/MS has the capability of maintaining baseline drift of <10µg and short term noise of <0.03 µ g which is critical to assure the scientific accuracy of our measurements.

In contrast, other MS will not even report their baseline drift and only provide short term noise of 0.10 µ g which is an order of magnitude less accuracy. The MS component of this system is manufactured specifically for evolved gas analysis with a heated capillary heated to 300°C with a large 0.22mm inner diameter which minimizes maintenance to a level which competitive instruments cannot provide.

3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:

**This equipment was placed out for statewide bid in accordance with state procurement policies. It was advertised as bid number 16-04. It was advertised in accordance with state procurement policies in a public newspaper and on two different websites. The specifications were restrictive because the *application* is specific. Most Mass Spectrometers (MS) and Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometers (GC-MS) cannot handle direct evolved gas analysis need for the US Army Natick Contracting Division award pursuant with the “Warfighter Helmet**

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**Pneumatic Cushioning Project.” TA Instruments was the only bid submitted. The bid was denied by the state stating it appears to be a sole source. No other manufacturers for this product are known.**

4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

**Quotes were submitted and agreed upon in the initial proposal to the US Army.**

5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:

**The University was required to submit a proposed cost detail for the base and each option in the initial proposal.**

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>October 1, 2015</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>October 8, 2015</b>

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:

Comments/objections will be received as required per Section 31-7-13 (C) of the Mississippi

Code until 8:00 a.m. (Central Time) on October 15, 2015. Steve Ballew

Director of Procurement & Contracts

118 College Dr. Box 5003 Hattiesburg, MS 39406

Phone: 601-266-4131

[Steve.ballew@usm.edu](mailto:Steve.ballew@usm.edu)

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