

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
156-07

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):

Stainless Steel Cup and Bob fixture from TA Instruments. This will be attached to the existing TA Instruments Discovery Hybrid Rheometer 2. This fixture is being purchased to measure the viscosity of low viscosity fluids/solutions. The fixture will have following components:

Part # 533201.901: DHR & AR-Series Smart Swap Concentric Cylinder Peltier Jacket. Plugs into any DHR & AR-G2, AR2000/ex, or AR1500 and automatically configures the software for immediate use. Maximum temperature is 150 °C.

Part # 545696.901: Stainless Steel Standard Concentric Cylinder Cup: for use with DHR & AR-Series Peltier Jacket. Radius = 15.2 mm. Compatible with upper conical DIN, Recessed End, Vane and Wide Gap Vane rotors.

Part # 546017.901: DHR & AR-G2, Smart Swap, Stainless Steel, Recessed End Rotor: Radius = 14 mm, Rotor Height = 42 mm.

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:

Presently, we have parallel-plate and cone-plate fixtures/geometries fitted with the rheometer. These geometries cannot be used to measure viscosity of low viscosity solutions. This is because the low viscosity solutions escape out of the parallel-plate and cone-plate geometries. Also, due to low viscosity the measured torque values are lower than the instrument limit. Due to its specific configuration, the new fixture will not have such limitation and will be capable of measuring viscosity of low viscosity fluids.

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

This fixture will be purchased from TA Instruments. As the fixture will be connected to an existing instrument (TA Instruments) through a proprietary connector and will

be controlled by the rheometer software, it has to be purchased from the same manufacturer as the rheometer.

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

The estimated cost of the fixture with all components is \$ 9702.00. The original price of the item was \$ 10,780 and 10% academic discount was provided.

This is an added fixture to an existing instrument and if a similar fixture is bought from another vendor a new rheometer needs to be purchased, which will be very expensive.

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:

This fixture will be fitted with an existing equipment and is not available from any other vendors. Therefore, sole source purchase is necessary.

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

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.