

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 16-002**

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:

**Purchase of an ARES-G2 Rheometer needed 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 ARES-G2 motor torque is 800 mN.m. The transducer torque is 200 mN.m**

**The ARES-G2 Rheometer system eliminates inertia and friction effects from the motor and provides superior amplitude, phase-angle, and normal force**

**measurements, independently, which will be used as deliverables in our “Warfighter Helmet Pneumatic Cushioning Project.”**

**We will be measuring thermoplastic polymers for the U.S. Army on the ARES-G2 Rheometer and only the ARES-G2 equipment compensates for normal forces which occur during the thermoplastic rheological tests to provide true material properties.**

**Additionally, it is well known that ARES-G2 Rheometer force convection oven has a linear heating rate of 60°C/min and ballistic heating rate of 300°C/min which are critical measurement variables for U.S. Army testing.**

**Torque range capabilities and the ability to test solid thermoplastic polymers in a dynamic mechanical analysis mode including 3-point bend, tension, and**

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 16-002**

**compression separate the ARES-G2 Rheometer as the only Rheometer to provide this range of measurements on a single instrument which we will be studying and reporting in this research.**

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 16-03. It was advertised in accordance with state procurement policies, which included a public newspaper and two websites. TA Instruments was the only respondent. The bid was denied by the state who stated it “*appears to be a sole source.*” As stated in previous section, torque range capabilities and the ability to test solid thermoplastic polymers in a dynamic mechanical analysis mode including 3-point bend, tension, and compression separate the ARES-G2 Rheometer as the only Rheometer to provide this range of measurements on a single instrument which we will be studying and reporting in this research.**

**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.**

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 16-002**

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>September 3, 2015</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>September 10, 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:

Steve Ballew

Director of Procurement & Contracts

Steve.ballew@usm.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, 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.