

Mississippi Forensic Laboratory
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
Sole source # 3150001533

The Mississippi Forensic Laboratory (MSFL) is seeking to purchase Qiagen EZ1 Advanced XL and Qiagen EZ1 Advanced DNA Investigator Card.

1. **Description of the commodity or commodities the MSFL is seeking to procure:**

**Make and Model: Qiagen EZ1 Advanced XL part number 9001492
Qiagen EZ1 Advanced DNA Investigator Card, part number 9019933.**

Description The QIAGEN BioRobot EZ1 Advanced XL (Part Number 9001492) is designed for automated isolation of nucleic acids from a wide variety of sample types. The QIAGEN BioRobot EZ1 Advanced XL with MagAttract silica magnetic particle technology combines the speed, efficiency, and purity of silica-based nucleic acid purification, with the convenient handling of magnetic particles. Only QIAGEN offers the combination of 1) full walk-away automation with 2) proven self-contained sealed reagent strip chemistries, and 3) gDNA, mitoDNA, or Total RNA extraction protocols for multiple sample types. QIAGEN Inc. is the *only vendor* that can meet the specifications. QIAGEN is the *only vendor* that offers the QIAGEN BioRobot EZ1 Advanced XL and related products (EZ1 Kits and EZ1 Advanced XL Protocol Cards) in the United States and Canada. The EZ1 Advanced XL is the only equipment the DNA Investigator extraction kits can run on and are currently being used by the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory.

2. **Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that can meet the needs of the Agency:**

The EZ1 Advanced XL instrument is the only instrument that utilizes a protocol card capable of “Tip Dance plus normalization” and a 40 uL elution volume. Also, DNA purification is performed inside a filtered tip which greatly minimizes or eliminates contamination of valuable forensic DNA samples. The EZ1 Advanced instruments are the only instruments capable of purifying DNA from the EZ1 Investigator kit chemistry provided by QIAGEN which is the current method used by the Mississippi Forensics Lab. Additionally, the EZ1 Advanced instruments are currently the only instruments on the market capable of purifying DNA in less than 20 minutes. Additionally, the instrument utilizes prefilled, sealed reagent cartridges in the EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit help to prevent human error during setup of the instrument and prevent contamination of buffers by eliminating human error in reagent preparation and workstation setup, and by providing cross-contamination-free liquid handling.

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

QIAGEN is the sole manufacturer and distributor of the EZ1 DNA instruments in the United States of America. Additionally, the quality and quantity of DNA recovered from use of non-QIAGEN chemistry cannot be guaranteed and therefore not supported by this laboratory.

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

This is the amount it will cost to run the equipment to perform the services for the State of Mississippi and its law enforcement agencies.

Estimated Cost: \$108,511.00

Amount is within the expected price range of these items requested.

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

MSFL receives a 6.62% discount on the instruments, a 3% discount on the cards and install and a 3% discount on the EZ1 investigator kits. The price has been established by the discount provided by the company.

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 should submit a written notice to:

Betsy M. Toles or Sonya Toaster
Procurement Department
4th Floor, Room 402
Jackson, MS 39216

The notice should contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement, as well as, but not limited to the following information:

Interested Party Information

- Contact Name, Phone Number, and email address
- Company Website URL, if applicable

Objection to Sole Source Justification

- Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) A description of the commodity or commodities that Interested Party believes is comparable to the Qiagen Kits and related consumables;
 - b) An explanation of why Interested Party's commodity or commodities can also meet the needs of the agency; and
 - c) A list of sources from which Interested Party's commodity may be procured.
- If Interested Party claims that the Qiagen Kits and related consumables are available from a source other than Qiagen objection must contain a written statement from Qiagen is that the Interested Party is an authorized distributor or reseller of the Qiagen Kits and related consumables.

This information should be provided no later than Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 5:00 pm local time. Response may be delivered by hand, via regular mail or overnight delivery.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSFL determines that the commodity in the proposed sole-source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSFL will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity or commodities to an advertised competitive bid process.

If MSFL determines after the review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity or commodities, then MSFL will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB). MSFL will have the burden of proving that the commodity or commodities is only provided by one (1) source.