

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

SS 103

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):

BioRad Laboratories Next Generation Chromatography (NGC) Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography (FPLC) system

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:

The NGC system has several advantages over competing systems when it comes to meeting the needs of our researchers. First, after testing operating systems, the ChromLab (BioRad) software is much easier to use than other software. It can also be placed on an unlimited number of computers and has free lifetime upgrades to the software. That is not true for the other software. This makes it easier for multiple users in the department to use the same instrument and not need to use just the computer that controls the instrument for data processing. Since this instrument is being purchased through the combined funds of 4 different labs, this allows for the data to be processed using the same software that it was collected with while the instrument is being run by another lab without extra cost. Second, the labs purchasing this instrument are home to many undergraduate researchers who may not be as familiar with instruments of this type. The instrument itself assists them in re-plumbing itself for new applications using a LED lighting system called Point-to-Plumb that indicates where connections should be made. Third, the system has a modular plug and play system. This means that if the department ever needs to change how the system operates, new modules can be ordered and put into the empty module slots by the researchers themselves without need for a costly service engineer. BioRad also takes advantage of this capability when the system needs repair by sending out loaner modules that can simply be swapped with the broken module until the broken module can be fixed at BioRad and mailed back to the department. Loaner modules are shipped out overnight to minimize downtime and sample loss. There is no need for a service engineer visit in most circumstances. Fourth, much of the research done in the department is not done with pre-determined methods. This includes optimal purification methods for the proteins being studied. The NGC buffer blending valve technology allows for a wide range of buffer conditions to be employed during a single purification greatly reducing the work load of

the researchers and the amount of time that it takes to optimize protein purification. Fifth, this system includes a column switching valve which allows the system to partially purify a sample on one column and then finish the purification of the sample on a different column without having to re-plumb the system. This, in combination with the buffer blending valve, allow multi-step purifications to be carried out without the need for constant researcher supervision. This in turn allows the researchers to spend time working on other tasks while the purification is done. Without the buffer blending valve, additional buffers would have to be made by the researchers and either switched for those in use with the first column or additional equipment would have to be purchased with a different system to allow the buffers to be ready and waiting for the system when the second purification begins. Sixth, this system includes a sample loading pump which we need so that larger samples can be loaded onto the system without a researcher needing to be present to do so. While other manufacturers have loading pumps, they are not incorporated into the system (they are stand alone units) and therefore take up more space, which is not available in the refrigerated chromatography cabinet that we found already within the department and will be repurposing for use with the NGC system. Finally, the NGC comes with a touchscreen that attaches to the side of the instrument. This screen allows the user to view where problems are occurring and how the system is running without having to return to the primary control computer (which will not be in the chromatography cabinet with the instrument). Other systems have a system of blinking lights on the instrument that require the user to look up what the error is based on the pattern of how the lights are blinking. This difference makes it very difficult to diagnose instrument problems even for an experienced user and very easy on the NGC instrument for a novice user.

We looked at other manufacturers, but could not find a vendor other than BioRad that could provide us with all the features that we needed in one instrument. None of the other systems had the LED Point-to-Plumb feature, or something like it, that the BioRad system has. None of the other systems had the plug and play capability of the NGC, which allows for the easy swapping of broken modules, or the overnight loaner program that sends a module out to replace the one being serviced so that work can continue even while the broken module is being repaired. None of the other systems had the touchscreen attached to the instrument like the NGC to address problems and monitor the system directly from the instrument.

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

BioRad Laboratories sells the NGC systems directly to the end users because each system is customized to the needs of the end user.

Why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

Thorough investigation into equipment that provides some but not all of the required capabilities revealed that it would be more expensive to purchase the similar equipment and still not have all the required elements needed for the research to be conducted.

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

We negotiated for over 12 months and were able to get 2017 pricing with discounts totaling over \$30,000.

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 Monday, September 17, 2018 at 10:00 am (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.