

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

#SS 350

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):

Nikon Instruments Inc., Ti2E TIRF microscope Description: Total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscope.

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:

A total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscope is a specialized instrument that is required for the research of motor protein and cytoskeletal biomechanics, the main focus of the Molecular Biophysics and Engineering Lab. The instrument, equipped with multiple laser lines, high performance objectives, and a micro-dark room enclosure is necessary for imaging the cellular components studied. TIRF is a microscopy technique that enhances signal to noise ratio of surface-bound proteins, allowing for single molecule resolution. The Nikon TIRF microscope is the only system with a combination of motorized multiple wavelength imaging, customized data acquisition software for single molecule imaging and tracking, a motorized stage, an interlock safety feature to protect users from laser radiation, high numerical aperture objectives necessary for TIRF, and a micro-dark room for imaging in a shared location, all of which are necessary for our research to be carried out successfully. It is the only system that has been guaranteed and approved by the National Institutes of Health to have the precision, stability and imaging techniques necessary for our competitively funded project.

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

Mark Nilges, Ph.D. Bioscience Sales Specialist Nikon Instruments Inc. 1300 Walt Whitman Road Melville, NY 11747-3064 Phone: 504-343-2334 Email: mark.nilges@nikon.com. The lab PI extensively spoke with multiple microscope companies. After intensive review and talk of customization over many months to meet research needs, only the Nikon system can perform the necessary talks for the lab's research. In addition, this particular Nikon setup is what was approved the NIH who funded this equipment acquisition through a competitive process. The Nikon TIRF microscope is the only system with a combination of motorized multiple wavelength imaging, customized data acquisition software for single molecule imaging and tracking, a motorized stage, an interlock safety feature to protect users from laser radiation, high numerical aperture objectives necessary for TIRF, and a micro-dark room for imaging in a shared location, all of which are necessary for our research to be carried out successfully.

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

A deeply discounted deal has been secured from the vendor representative (Mark Nilges) for the purchase of the Nikon Ti2E TIRF microscope system.

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

The PI and department began discussing the acquisition of the Nikon TIRF microscope as soon as the NIH solicitation became available as an opportunity to buy this equipment. In learning that the initial system was unaffordable within the NIH budget, the sales representative went to great lengths to aid in customizing the instrument so that it could reach the PI's research needs.

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, November 13th, 2023 at 10:00 am (Central Time) to Frank Kemp or Jeff Wells at bids@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 Frank Kemp or Jeff Wells 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.