

RENTAL AGREEMENT
FOR USE BY MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENTS
AND VENDORS
(applicable to equipment rental transactions)

The Agreement is entered into by and between Mississippi State University (hereinafter referred to as ACustomer@), and (hereinafter referred to as AVendor@). This Agreement becomes effective upon signature by Customer and Vendor, and shall take precedence over all agreements and understandings between the parties. Vendor, by its acceptance hereof, agrees to rent to Customer, and Customer, by its acceptance hereof, agrees to rent from Vendor, the equipment, including applicable software and services to render it continually operational, listed in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

1. CUSTOMER ACCOUNT ESTABLISHMENT

- A. A separate Vendor Customer Number will be required for each specific customer/installation location.
- B. The Customer is identified as the entity on the first line of the "bill-to" address. All invoices and notices of changes will be sent to the "bill-to" address.
- C. AShip-to@ and/or AInstalled-at@ address is the location to which the initial shipment of equipment/supplies will be made and the address to which service representatives will respond. Subsequent shipments of supplies for installed equipment will also be delivered to the "installed-at" address unless otherwise requested.
- D. Unless creditworthiness for this Customer Number has been previously established by Vendors, Vendor=s Credit Department may conduct a credit investigation for this Order. Notwithstanding delivery of equipment, Vendor may revoke this Order by written notice to the Customer if credit approval is denied within thirty (30) days after the date this Rental Agreement is accepted for Vendor by an authorized representative.

2. EQUIPMENT SELECTION, PRICES, AND AGREEMENT: The Customer has selected and Vendor agrees to provide the equipment, including applicable software and services to render it continually operational, identified on Exhibit A attached to this Rental Agreement. The specific prices, inclusive of applicable transportation charges, are as set forth on the attached Exhibit A. The parties understand and agree that the Customer is exempt from the payment of taxes.

3. SHIPPING AND TRANSPORTATION: Vendor agrees to pay all non-priority, ground shipping, transportation, rigging and drayage charges for the equipment from the equipment=s place of manufacture to the installation address of the equipment as specified under this Agreement. If any form of express shipping method is requested, it will be paid for by Customer.

4. RISK OF LOSS OR DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT: While in transit, Vendor shall assume and bear the entire risk of loss and damage to the equipment from any cause whatsoever. If, during the period the equipment is in Customer=s possession, due to gross negligence of the customer, the equipment is lost or damaged, then, the customer shall bear the cost of replacing or repairing said equipment.

5. DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND RELOCATION:

- A. DELIVERY: Vendor shall deliver the equipment to the location specified by Customer and pursuant to the delivery schedule agreed upon by the parties. If, through no fault of the Customer, Vendor is unable to deliver the equipment or software, the prices, terms and conditions will remain unchanged until delivery is made by Vendor. If, however, Vendor does not deliver the equipment or software within ten (10) working days of the delivery due date, Customer shall have the right to terminate the order without penalty, cost or expense to Customer of any kind whatsoever.
- B. INSTALLATION SITE: At the time of delivery and during the period Vendor is responsible for maintenance of the equipment, the equipment installation site must conform to Vendor=s published space, electrical and environmental requirements; and the Customer agrees to provide, at no charge, reasonable access to the equipment and to a telephone for local or toll free calls.

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- C. INSTALLATION DATE: The installation date of the equipment shall be that date as is agreed upon by the parties, if Vendor is responsible for installing the equipment.
 - D. ACCEPTANCE: Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, Vendor agrees that Customer shall have ten (10) working days from date of delivery and installation, to inspect, evaluate and test the equipment to confirm that it is in good working order.
 - E. RELOCATION: Customer may transfer equipment to a new location by notifying Vendor in writing of the transfer at least thirty (30) calendar days before the move is made. If Vendor is responsible for maintenance of the equipment, this notice will enable Vendor to provide technical assistance in the relocation efforts, if needed, as well as to update Vendor=s records as to machine location. There will be no cessation of rental charges during the period of any such transfer. The Vendor=s cost of moving and reinstalling equipment from one location to another is not included in this Agreement, and Customer agrees to pay Vendor, after receipt of invoice of Vendor=s charges with respect to such moving of equipment, which will be billed to Customer in accordance with Vendor=s standard practice then in effect for commercial users of similar equipment or software.
6. RENTAL TERM: The rental term for each item of equipment shall be that as stated in the attached Exhibit A. If the customer desires to continue renting the equipment at the expiration of the original rental agreement, the customer must enter into a new rental agreement which shall be separate from this agreement. There will be no automatic renewals allowed. There shall be no option to purchase.
7. OWNERSHIP: Unless the Customer has obtained title to the equipment, title to the equipment shall be and remain vested at all times in Vendor or its assignee and nothing in this Agreement shall give or convey to Customer any right, title or interest therein, unless purchased by Customer. Nameplates, stencils or other indicia of Vendor=s ownership affixed or to be affixed to the equipment shall not be removed or obliterated by Customer.
8. PAYMENTS:
- A. INVOICING AND PAYMENTS: The charges for the equipment, software or services covered by this Rental Agreement are specified in the attached Exhibit A. Charges for any partial month for any item of equipment shall be prorated based on a thirty (30) day month. Vendor shall submit an invoice with the appropriate documentation to Customer. Customer agrees to make payment in accordance with Mississippi law on ATimely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies,@ Sections 31-7-301, et. seq. of the 1972 Mississippi Code Annotated, as amended, which generally provides for payment by Customer within forty-five (45) days of the date the invoice is received and the goods are inspected and accepted.
 - B. METER READINGS: If applicable, the Customer shall provide accurate and timely meter readings at the end of each applicable billing period on the forms or other alternative means specified by Vendor. Vendor shall have the right, upon reasonable prior notice to Customer, and during Customer=s regular business hours, to inspect the equipment and to monitor the meter readings. If Customer meter readings are not received in the time to be agreed upon by the parties, the meter readings may be obtained electronically or by other means or may be estimated by Vendor subject to reconciliation when the correct meter reading is received by Vendor.
 - C. COPY CREDITS: If applicable, if a copier is being rented, the Customer will receive one (1) copy credit for each copy presented to Vendor which, in the Customer=s opinion, is unusable and also for each copy which was produced during servicing of the equipment. Copy credits will be issued only if Vendor is responsible for providing equipment services or maintenance services (except time and materials maintenance). Copy credits will be reflected on the invoice as a reduction in the total copy volume, except for run length plans which will be credited at a specific copy credit rate as shown on the applicable price list.
9. USE OF EQUIPMENT: Customer shall operate the equipment according to the manufacturer=s specifications and documented instructions. Customer agrees not to employ or use additional attachments, features or devises on the equipment or make changes or alterations to the equipment covered hereby without the prior written consent of Vendor in each case, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

10. MAINTENANCE SERVICES, EXCLUSIONS, AND REMEDIES:

- A. SERVICES: If Vendor is responsible for providing equipment services, maintenance services (except for time and materials), or warranty services: (1) Vendor shall install and maintain the equipment and make all necessary adjustments and repairs to keep the equipment in good working order. (2) Parts required for repair may be used or reprocessed in accordance with Vendor's specifications and replaced parts are the property of Vendor, unless otherwise specifically provided on the price lists. (3) Services will be provided during Customer's usual business hours. (4) If applicable, Customer will permit Vendor to install, at no cost to Customer, all retrofits designated by Vendor as mandatory or which are designed to insure accuracy of meters. (5) If Customer is paying for the maintenance services, any increase in cost for subsequent years shall be described in Attachment AA@ and in no event shall the cost for same increase by more than seven percent (7%) per year.
- B. EXCLUSIONS: The following is not within the scope of services: (1) Provision and installation of optional retrofits. (2) Services connected with equipment relocation. (3) Installation/removal of accessories, attachments or other devices. (4) Exterior painting or refinishing of equipment. (5) Maintenance, installation or removal of equipment or devices not provided by Vendor. (6) Performance of normal operator functions as described in applicable Vendor operator manuals. (7) Performance of services necessitated by accident; power failure; unauthorized alteration of equipment or software; tampering; service by someone other than Vendor; causes other than ordinary use; interconnection of equipment by electrical, or electronic or mechanical means with noncompatible equipment, or failure to use operating system software. If Vendor provides, at the request of the Customer, any of the services noted above, the Customer may be billed by Vendor at a rate not to exceed the Master State Prices Agreement between the Vendor and the State of Mississippi, or in the absence of such agreement at the then current time and materials rates.
- C. REMEDIES: If during the period in which Vendor is providing maintenance services, Vendor is unable to maintain the equipment in good working order, Vendor will, at no additional charge, provide either an identical replacement or another product that provides equal or greater capabilities.

11. HOLD HARMLESS: Vendor agrees that it will, and hereby does, indemnify, defend and hold harmless Customer from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, costs and expenses of every kind and nature, including court costs and attorney fees and claims for damages resulting from or arising out of any infringement claim or claim of bodily injury, death or damage to real or tangible personal property caused by Vendor and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees or subcontractors in the performance of this Agreement. Customer will promptly notify Vendor in writing of any claim to be indemnified hereunder, of which Customer has knowledge, and Vendor in turn will promptly notify Customer of any such claim. Vendor shall, at its sole expense, control the defense of such suit to the extent allowed by Mississippi law. The parties agree to cooperate with one another in the defense of any such matter.

12. ALTERATIONS, ATTACHMENTS, AND SUPPLIES:

- A. If Customer makes an alteration, attaches a device or utilizes a supply item that increases the cost of services, Vendor will either propose an additional service charge or request that the equipment be returned to its standard configuration or that use of the supply item be discontinued. If, within five (5) days of such proposal or request, Customer does not remedy the problem or agree in writing to do so within a reasonable amount of time, Vendor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement as provided herein. If Vendor believes that an alteration, attachment or supply item affects the safety of Vendor personnel or equipment users, Vendor shall notify Customer of the problem and may withhold maintenance until the problem is remedied.
- B. Unless Customer has obtained title to the equipment free and clear of any Vendor security interest, Customer may not remove any ownership identification tags on the equipment or allow the equipment to become fixtures to real property.

13. ASSIGNMENT:

- A. BY CUSTOMER: Without the prior consent of Vendor, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, Customer shall not (1) assign, transfer or pledge all or any part of this Agreement or software licensed by Vendor, or (2) resell, lease, lend or permit a lien or encumbrance of any kind against the equipment unless Customer has obtained title to the equipment free and clear of any Vendor security interest.

- B. BY VENDOR: Vendor shall not assign its rights or delegate its duties hereunder without the prior written consent of Customer, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
14. GOVERNING LAW: This Agreement shall be construed and governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi and venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Vendor expressly agrees that under no circumstances shall Customer be obligated to pay an attorneys fee or the cost of legal action to Vendor. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement between the parties, all activities and performances of the parties with respect to the equipment, software or services herein shall be subject to all applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures of the United States of America, or any agency thereof, the State of Mississippi or any agency thereof, or any local governments or political subdivisions that may affect the performance of services hereunder.
15. NOTICE: Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the party to whom the notice should be given at their usual business address. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. The parties agree to promptly notify each other of any change of address.
16. WAIVER: Failure of either party hereto to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants, and conditions hereof shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any similar right or power hereunder at any subsequent time or of any other provision hereof, nor shall it be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Agreement.
17. CAPTIONS: The captions or headings in this Agreement are for convenience only, and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of any provision or section of this Agreement.
18. SEVERABILITY: If any term or provision of this Agreement is prohibited by the laws of the State of Mississippi or declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
19. THIRD PARTY ACTION NOTIFICATION Vendor shall give Customer prompt notice in writing of any action or suit filed, and prompt notice of any claim made against Vendor by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to this Agreement.
20. AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT: Vendor warrants that it is a validly organized business with valid authority to enter into this Agreement. That entry into and performance under this Agreement is not restricted or prohibited by any loan, security, financing, contractual or other agreement of any kind, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary, that there are no existing legal proceedings, or prospective legal proceedings, either voluntary or otherwise, which may adversely affect its ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
21. RECORD RETENTION AND ACCESS TO RECORDS: Vendor shall maintain and make available to Customer, any financial records, supporting documents, statistical records and all other records pertinent to the services performed under this Agreement. These records shall be maintained for at least three (3) years; however, if any litigation or other legal action, by or on behalf of the State has begun that is not completed at the end of the three (3) year period, or if audit findings, litigation or other legal action has not been resolved at the end of the three (3) year period, the records shall be retained until resolution.
22. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES: If either party is rendered unable, wholly or in part, by reason of strikes, accidents, acts of God, weather conditions or any other acts beyond its control and without its fault or negligence to comply with any obligations or performance required under this Agreement, then such party shall have the option to suspend its obligations or performance hereunder until the extraordinary performance circumstances are resolved. If the extraordinary performance circumstances are not resolved within a reasonable period of time, however, the non-defaulting party shall have the option, upon prior written notice, of terminating the Agreement.
23. TERMINATION: This Agreement may be terminated as follows: (a) Customer and vendor mutually agree to the termination, or (b) If either party fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement and that breach continues for thirty (30) days after the defaulting party receives written notice from the other party, then the non-defaulting party has the right to terminate this Agreement. The non-defaulting party may also pursue any remedy available to it in law or in equity. Upon termination, all obligations of Customer to make payments required hereunder shall cease.

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- 24. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS: It is expressly understood and agreed that the fulfillment of the conditions of this agreement by Customer is conditioned upon the receipt of governmental funding. If the funds anticipated for the fulfillment of this Agreement are, at any time, not forthcoming or insufficient, Customer shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, without damage, penalty, cost or expense to Customer of any kind whatsoever.
- 25. MODIFICATION OR RENEGOTIATION: This Agreement may be modified only by written agreement signed by the parties hereto. The parties agree to renegotiate the Agreement if federal and/or state revision of any applicable laws or regulations make changes in this Agreement necessary.
- 26. WARRANTIES: Vendor warrants that the equipment, when operated according to the manufacturer=s specifications and documented instructions, shall perform the functions indicated by the specifications and documented literature. Vendor may be held liable for any damages caused by failure of the equipment to function according to specifications and documented literature published by the manufacturer of the equipment. The State may be held liable for any damages caused by failure to operate the equipment according to the specifications and documented instructions.
- 28. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: This agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the equipment, software or services described herein and supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations, understandings and agreements, written or oral, between the parties relating hereto. No terms, conditions, understandings, usages of the trade, course of dealings or agreements, not specifically set out in this Agreement or incorporated herein, shall be effective or relevant to modify, vary, explain or supplement this Agreement.

For the faithful performance of the terms of this Agreement, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their undersigned representatives.

Witness my signature this the _____ day of _____, 20__.

Vendor: _____

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

WITNESS:

07/20/2004

Witness my signature this the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Mississippi State University: _____

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

WITNESS:

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EXHIBIT AA@
RENTAL AGREEMENT
FOR USE BY
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENTS AND VENDORS
(Applicable to Equipment Rental Transactions)

The following, when signed by the Customer and the Vendor shall be considered to be a part of the rental agreement between the parties.

Vendor Company Name: _____

Customer Agency Name: _____

Bill to Address: _____

Ship to Address: _____

<u>Description of Equipment, Software, or Services</u>	<u>Price</u>
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Delivery Schedule and Installation Date: _____

Rental Term: Number of Months _____ Start Date _____ End Date _____

Modifications:

Vendor Signature

Customer Signature