

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
234-108

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

BeeHero bee counter and hive scale monitoring equipment, with power packs and data gateways, and a scientific data plan.

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

To do the proposed work, we need data showing honey bee entrance/exit numbers timestamped from the colony. There is only one item on the market that can do that, which is a double laser system (so we can determine entering vs exiting) from BeeHero. When paired with their extremely fine-scale colony balance, we can also determine if bees are returning with foraging loads or not. This data is then timestamped, uploaded to the cloud, and then able to be viewed every set number of minutes. There is no other counter like this on the market (and USDA lists these devices as appropriate sole-source purchases).

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

BeeHero is the name of the company and they are the only one who has this technology; they developed it and they do not sell through third parties.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

The estimated total cost including shipping and data plans amounts to \$31,600. Cost is determined based on the cost to build the item—there is still a microchip shortage globally, which is reflected in the price, but the cost of building this ourselves from plans we would need to develop ourselves greatly exceeds the costs of simply buying it from BeeHero. It also is much faster to buy it than it would be to make it.

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

The department is collaborating with the USDA-ARS who were beta testers of this technology and who also recognize these items as “sole-sourced” materials.

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:

Jennifer Mayfield, CPPO
Interim Deputy Director of Procurement & Contracts
jmayfield@procurement.msstate.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, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU 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 MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.