

**Mississippi State University**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**223-42**

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):**

Nikon DS-Fi3 Color Camera w/components; NIS-Elements Documentation Software Package; Windows 10 HP Workstation and Monitor.

**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:**

We have an existing Nikon TS100 inverted phase contrast microscope. With our work with zooplankton, phytoplankton and snail eggs, digital photographs are required for many of the manuscripts we are planning to publish.

Because we already have an existing Nikon TS100 microscope, compatibility is important for the camera setup to function properly. No other company manufactures digital camera systems specifically made to fit this particular microscope. The digital camera setup must match the Nikon microscope for compatibility and is only available from Nikon.

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

Nikon instruments, Inc. has exclusive rights and holds the patents on the DE-Fi3 Color Camera and its components. In addition, Nikon Corporation is the sole distributor of the NIS-Elements Documentation Software. Any service performed on Nikon microscopy systems by unauthorized entities will void any existing warranties.

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

DS-Di3 Microscope camera w/components - \$4764.10

NIS-Elements Documentation Software - \$1767.60

Windows 10 HP Workstation and Monitor - #43345.00

Reasonable cost: Nikon has exclusive rights and is the sole distributor of desired equipment.

**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:**

MSU Delta Research and Extension Center have searched and contacted several vendors to find Niko DS-Fi3 camera and NIS-Elements Documentation software but have not been successful in locating additional distributors. To protect the integrity of the warranty on existing equipment, we are purchasing the Nikon distributed Windows Workstation and monitor to use with Nikon microscopy and software.

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:

Don Buffum, CPPO  
Director of Procurement & Contracts  
dbuffum@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.

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