

**Mississippi State University**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**245-104**

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):**

COSMED HP COSMOS T170 DE MED - MCU6 with upgrades and accessories.

**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:**

This treadmill offers precision in speed and incline that are not found in other similar treadmills. The belt length of 170 cm allows both walking and running with individuals from various backgrounds with various strides lengths. The treadmill's precision of speed is 0.1 mph and grade is 0.1% is important for research repeatability due to physiological responses seen as a result of small workload variations. The treadmill has a safety and emergency stop harness to keep participants safe if they are unable to maintain speed. The treadmill can reach 15.5 mph and 28% elevation which allows both running and cycling tasks. The low vertical height of the treadmill belt allows gas and blood sampling by a researcher standing beside the treadmill. Finally, this treadmill seamlessly integrates with other equipment the department currently owns.

Other treadmills have various combinations of some of these capabilities but this is the only treadmill the researcher knows of that combines all of these traits.

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

COSMED is the only US distributor of HP Cosmos treadmills.

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

\$48,800.00

Research grade ergometers are expensive due to the sensitivity, precision, and durability they require. A large volume of the studies conducted by the kinesiology department requires work performed on a treadmill or a cycle ergometer. Having the ability to interface other department-owned devices with the treadmill improves researcher's ability to maintain more detailed

observation of participants to enhance safety. Additionally, this treadmill's design provides a safer situation for individuals exercising (harness, belt height) and researchers trying to collect data (belt height, belt closeness to treadmill edge).

**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:**

COSMED is the only distributor of this treadmill. Efforts are being made for the department is receiving improved pricing as we have a number of items in the department previously purchased from COSMED and are looking to purchase additional items from them as we continue to build our equipment inventory due to seamless interfacing.

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  
Director of Procurement & Contracts  
[jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu](mailto: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.