

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
245-107

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):

Subscription to Lightcast Economic Developer Database for April 2025 – April 2026

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 database provides quality estimates of various socio-economic data that are critical to the economic and community development programming effort of the Mississippi State University Extension Service. The dataset provides a set of information and options that is not available in other proprietary and public domain datasets. These features include:

The ability to assemble custom county/state regions

Provide initial education requirements and work experience required for 5- digit Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes

Ability to filter queries to specific North American Industrial Classification System (NA/CS) and SOC codes

Estimates of jobs and occupations from 2002 to 2024 and projections of the same to 2034

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

Lightcast. This is a proprietary dataset that this company has developed. This company is the most respected source of these types of data estimations and projections and are used extensively in the academic and economic development arenas.

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

The cost of an annual subscription to this database is estimated at \$25,750 per year. This cost is considered to be reasonable for two reasons. First, there are some data that are available in publicly available datasets, but the effort to extract the specific variables needed would require an extraordinary effort and the dollar value of time spent by the specialist would exceed the

subscription cost of the database. Second, there are some estimates that are included in the database which would not be able to be estimated given the nondisclosure nature of publicly available databases. Furthermore, given the time savings to faculty members that are afforded by this dataset, more information can be provided to Mississippi economic development decision makers.

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:

A review of data provider websites reveals no other datasets which contain the features that this dataset contains. Furthermore, a review of quality economic development literature reveals that the Lightcast dataset is well-respected among academic economic development researchers.

Discussions were held with the Lightcast sales representative to determine the best price that could be obtained for the purposes needed by MSUES and its partners. The price quoted by Lightcast is a set price for the Economic Developer database.

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
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.